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Thatcher aims to keep her present team

By Nicholas Wood, Political Reporter

Mrs Margaret Thatcher wants to fight the next general election with her present Cabinet largely unchanged and is resisting pressure for wholesale changes in the reshuffle planned for next month.

She may even decide to leave undisturbed her present team of senior ministers, limiting the changes to middle and junior ranks.

The Prime Minister's calculations are being heavily influenced by the timing of the next election.

Party chiefs are gearing up for a concerted public relations and advertising campaign through the autumn and winter aimed at wiping out Labour's lead in the opinion polls.

They are also oiling the wheels of the party machine with a view to having it in a state of campaign readiness by Christmas.

If that strategy works Mrs Thatcher is almost certain to take the opportunity to go to the country early.

She is understood to believe there is little to be gained by fighting an election with a revamped Cabinet in which key ministers are still struggling to master their new responsibilities.

Instead, she wants the present team to concentrate on trumpeting the Government's achievements and drawing up bold new policies that will capture the public's imagination to ensure the

continuation of Conservative rule into the 1990s. About a dozen policy groups, chaired by a Cabinet minister but including outside experts, will begin meeting soon in an attempt to bring her vision to reality.

They will report, probably by the end of the year, to the inner circle of senior ministers led by the Prime Minister.

Speculation about the reshuffle centres on the future of Mr Norman Fowler, who, after five gruelling years managing a £60 billion budget as Secretary of State for Social Services, wants a move.

He is being canvassed as a replacement for Mr Paul Channon, whose term of office at the Department of Trade and Industry has been marred by personal tragedy and professional difficulties.

But with the Government's record on the health service likely to prove an important issue at the election, Mrs Thatcher is reluctant to entrust so politically sensitive an area to a newcomer, who would need the best part of a year to come to grips with his task.

She may ask Mr Fowler to put the party before personal considerations and soldier on, carrying through his planned autumn counter-attack on Labour's propaganda.

Nor does the Prime Minister share backbench concern over the performance of Mr Michael Jopling, Minister of Agriculture, who has come under fire from the farming and environmental lobbies.

She regards him as a loyal member of the Cabinet who has done a difficult job well. If, as seems likely, those two posts remain with their present holders, it is hard to

Continued on page 14, col 1

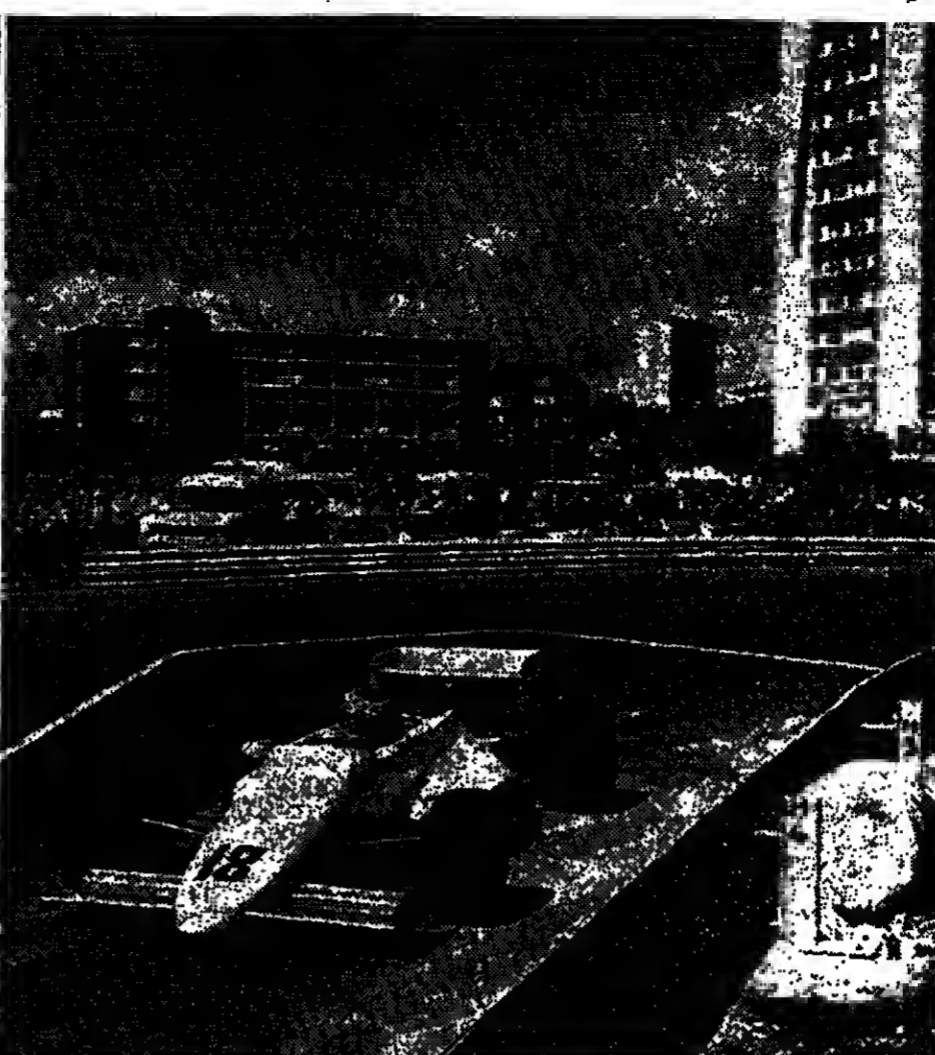


Mr Waldegrave, who is pressing for promotion.

who will draw up the next party manifesto.

Conflict between the tax-cutters and the spenders has largely evaporated, it was said, to be replaced by an agreement that accepts the force of both arguments.

Taxes will be cut, but at the same time spending will be increased in selected areas such as health and education to meet rising public expectations.



Austrian Oscar Pedersoli racing through the city centre during practice laps on Birmingham's inner city Formula 3000 track yesterday. Photograph: Peter Llewellyn.

Road race attacked by vandals

By Craig Seton

Vandals delayed the start of the first motor racing on public roads in Britain for nearly three hours yesterday when organizers of the Birmingham Super Prix found bolts had been removed from crash barriers around the circuit.

The overnight vandalism was discovered in early morning checks around the 2.47 mile circuit close to Birmingham's city centre, delaying practice sessions and qualifying rounds in which racing cars were to travel at speeds of over 160 mph.

Mr Jobo Charlton, the chairman of Birmingham City Council's road race committee, blamed deliberate vandalism. "When we checked the barriers it was found that in certain places bolts and wedges had disappeared."

Once racing started the delay was quickly forgotten.

Thousands of spectators lined the circuit as Formula 3000 cars - only one step down from super fast Formula 1 - thundered and roared along the "round the houses" route at average speeds of up to 105 mph.

Fifteen thousand tickets for grandstands and more than 15,000 other tickets have been sold for the two-day event, which organizers hope will have attracted over 100,000 people by tonight.

About 1,000 policemen were on duty for yesterday's event, which was televised in 35 countries. A temporary fire station was established and ambulancemen stood by in case of accidents, but there were no early mishaps.

Birmingham City Council has invested £1.5 million in staging the event, which required parliamentary approval. The council hopes it will be held each year to boost the area's depressed economy and the city's chances of staging the 1992 Olympics.

Birmingham City Council held a referendum of local residents and won a 4-1 majority in favour of staging the event.

Helicopter flies to stricken hovercraft

By Mark Ellis

A Royal Air Force helicopter airlifted an injured stewardess to hospital and made another flight to deliver a drug needed by a pregnant woman when a hovercraft with 132 passengers on board was stranded in the English Channel yesterday.

The Hoverspeed vessel was stationary about 10 miles off Dover on a flight from Calais after a fire destroyed electrical controls.

There had been no danger to passengers, Dover Coastguard said last night, but a Wessex helicopter from RAF Manston, in Kent, sent to aid the stricken craft, Swift, took Miss Christine Dale, the stewardess, off for treatment to an injured hand.

Last night the hovercraft and passengers were back in Dover after being towed by a tug while two engineers, transferred from another hovercraft by the sea-rescue helicopter, tried to repair the damage.

Mr David Wise, projects manager of Hoverspeed, said that the fire broke out in one of the main electrical bays. "It was put out immediately by crew members and there was no risk to passengers at any stage," he said.

An air and sea search was launched yesterday in the Bristol Channel for three of the four crew of a missing Belgian trawler, after a merchant ship rescued one man who had spent three days on a life raft.

He said that the trawler, the Ingrid, sank on Thursday. It was returning from fishing grounds in the Irish Sea to its home port of Ostend. There

Viv Richards refuses to take drugs test

By John Goodbody, Sports News Correspondent

Vivian Richards, the Somerset and West Indies batsman, has been ordered to appear tomorrow before a Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB) disciplinary committee after refusing to take a random drugs test.

It is the first time any cricketer has declined to be tested since the TCCB, with the support of the Cricketers' Association, which represents the players, began last year supporting the Sports Council's campaign against drug-taking.

The contracts of all first-class cricketers include the clause that they must submit to testing if drawn to do so. Richards declined to take the

Stalker cannot rule out theory of conspiracy

By Richard Ford

Mr John Stalker, the reinstated deputy chief constable of Greater Manchester, said yesterday that he could not rule out the conspiracy theories surrounding his removal from heading an investigation into allegations that the Royal Ulster Constabulary operated a "shoot to kill" policy in Northern Ireland.

But Mr Stalker will not return to the Province to resume leadership of a team concluding a detailed two-year inquiry into six controversial shootings in Co Armagh during the autumn of 1982.

Despite calls from two Social Democratic and Labour Party MPs and the Labour Party's deputy Northern Ireland spokesman for him to be reinstated as head of the inquiry team, Mr Stalker said yesterday that he had been constitutionally removed and could only return if invited by Sir John Hermon, chief constable of the RUC, or the Northern Ireland police authority.

Mr Stalker conceded that was an unlikely prospect yesterday when he said: "I would not ever see myself going back to Northern Ireland in connection with this investigation. I would have liked to finish the job."

He said he had given an undertaking not to comment on the inquiry now being led by Mr Colin Sampson, chief constable of West Yorkshire, who conducted the inquiry into allegations made against Mr Stalker. He refused to comment when asked whether he thought the final report

would inevitably be tainted. "The speculation has been rife. I don't want to add to it." But he said he was still confused about being taken off the Northern Ireland inquiry and added: "I am not entirely convinced of some of the reasons for that removal."

Asked about the conspiracy theories surrounding his removal he said: "I don't know whether I am satisfied. I don't know what the truth is and with the greatest of respect to others I would say they don't know either. I think there's still a long way to go, still things to be discovered, things still to come out. I'm certainly not saying there is a conspiracy but I think it's a wise man to say there wasn't."

Mr Stalker, who was reinstated after 10 weeks, was speaking on Radio Telefis Eireann, the Irish Republic's state radio service. He was confident that the inquiry which was almost completed, will be satisfactorily finished.

When he realized that the same team of Greater Manchester detectives was to continue the investigation under Mr Sampson, he was confident certain lines of inquiry would be conducted. "I know they knew what I would have asked and they would conduct the investigation as they are doing along the lines I would have done."

Mr Stalker began his inquiry in March 1984 into the shooting by RUC undercover officers of five unarmed terrorists and one teenage civilian in three separate incidents

Continued on page 2, col 4

Tomorrow Blazers of glory?



As yet another school year looms, a look at the dress options and the best buys

Portfolio Gold

There is no Times Portfolio Gold competition today because the Stock Exchange is closed for the Bank holiday.

The daily prize tomorrow will be £12,000, treble the usual amount because there were no winners on Friday or Saturday. The weekly prize of £8,000 was won on Saturday by Commander R.M. Romer (Retd) of Bath. Details, page 3.

Rules and how to play, information service, page 14.

Diet deaths

The Government is accused of failing to provide guidance on food and health, in spite of high death rates from diet-related diseases. Page 3

Summit move

African leaders will invite President Reagan to a summit on ending apartheid. Page 5

Chess draw

The tenth game in the World Chess Championship in London was drawn. Page 2

Table with 4 columns: House News, Overseas, Archaeology, Apples, Arts, Birthdays, marriages, Bridge, Chess, Church, Court, Crosswords. Includes dates and page numbers.

Pressure growing on Willis

By John Winder

Pressure in the higher councils of the trade union movement is growing on Mr Norman Willis, general secretary of the TUC for the past two years, to resign or at least to do better.

Mr Willis has been sufficiently troubled by reports that his public style is boring, long-winded and lacking in confidence, to take them up with trade unionists on the general council. Those to whom he has spoken have assured him of their backing with varying degrees of warmth.

Some union leaders have been privately critical of Mr Willis's style since he took over from Mr Lionel Murray. The fact that he had, unlike his predecessors, to fight an election to get the job is an indication that there were doubts from the beginning.

Mr Willis has had considerable more success in private negotiations than in his public appearances.

Yesterday, Mr Ron Todd, general secretary of Britain's biggest union, seized on that point when he defended Mr Willis in a radio interview but he did not deny that there might be a campaign against him.

At the end of an interview on BBC Four's *The World This Weekend*, he said: "There is a lot of smoke and very little in it."

Earlier, Mr Todd had suggested that the whole thing might be a plot by the media to create destabilization before the TUC Congress in Brighton next week.

'10 million paid too much tax'

By John Young

An estimated 10 million people in Britain paid more tax than they should have done in 1984-85, a former tax inspector claims in his book published today.

Mr Henry Toch, for seven years an Inland Revenue tax inspector and now an author and lecturer on taxation, bases his estimate partly on evidence given to the Commons Public Accounts committee in 1980 and partly on his own estimation of the people who fail to claim their rightful allowances.

In *Taxation Made Simple* his eleventh book on the subject, Mr Toch says that according to the Inland Revenue's own evidence in 1980, one in three tax assessments was incorrect, and more recently, more than half the companies examined did not operate Pay As You Earn correctly.

He records that, in evidence to the committee, the Chairman of the Board of Inland Revenue admitted that a random check had shown that 27 per cent of all PAYE assessments were wrong.

Asked yesterday whether this was not closer to a quarter than a third, Mr Toch conceded that he might have overestimated his case.

But given a total of some 24 million taxpayers, it could be assumed that between six and eight million had been given wrong or outdated assessments, which in the majority of cases meant that those concerned had overpaid.

The balance of the 10 million is made up of those who have overpaid.

Continued on page 14, col 1

Bumper harvest likely despite rain

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

Another bumper harvest is in prospect, despite the rain and lack of sunshine during the past month, the second of this year's three annual crop surveys compiled by *The Times* indicates.

After a generally gloomy assessment at the time of the first survey in June, when farmers were still looking at the effects of a wet autumn and spring and a bitterly cold winter, their mood appears markedly more optimistic.

Yields are reported to be patchy and unlikely to compare with the huge levels of 1984, but crops seem to be exceptionally healthy and of high quality. Apart from potato blight in Cornwall, diseases hardly rate a mention.

Another big grain crop will not be welcomed by the Government or the European Commission.

Details, page 4

Reagan drugs crackdown moves into high gear

From Michael Binyon, Washington

As the war of words with Mexico over drugs continues, the Reagan Administration has stepped up its crackdown on drugs with a well-publicized series of raids, a blockade of New York harbour and the suspension of dozens of air traffic controllers in California on suspicion of using drugs.

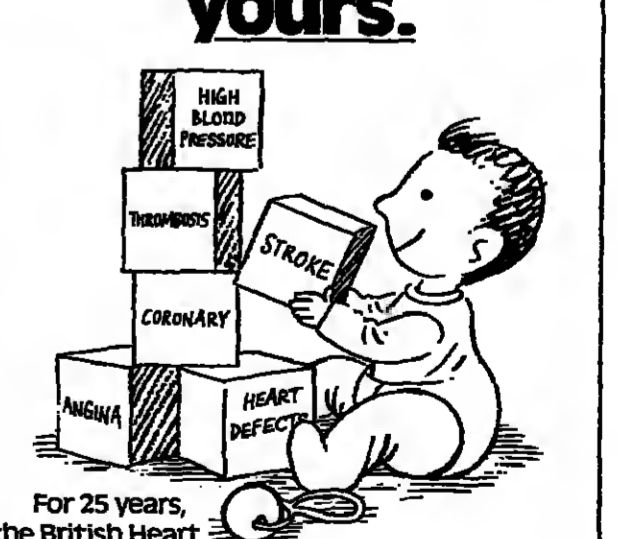
The angry confrontation with Mexico in the wake of the kidnapping and torture of a United States Drug Enforcement agent by police in Guadalajara led to recriminations on both sides at the weekend.

Mr William Webster, the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, rejected Mexican charges that US agents had been operating illegally in Mexico.

"We are there by invitation of the Mexican Government as part of a co-operative effort," he said.

However, Señor Garcia Ramirez, Mexico's Minister of Justice, was reported as saying any agents operating in his country did so at their own risk.

One day son, all this won't be yours.



For 25 years, the British Heart Foundation has been funding vital research into Britain's biggest killer, heart disease.

We've achieved a great deal already. But we need your help if we're to continue building a healthier, safer world for the next generation to grow up in.

The more you help us, the more we'll find out.

Form for British Heart Foundation donation, including fields for name, address, telephone, and a section for a 1986-1986 donation.

TUC call for end to reliance on N-power

By Nicholas Beeston

Britain's development of nuclear energy should be halted and the next generation of power stations should be coal-fired, the TUC said yesterday in a report on the nuclear industry.

In its 35-page report, *Nuclear Energy: Work to be Done*, to be presented at the annual congress next week, the TUC says the repercussions of the Chernobyl disaster and the general lack of public faith in nuclear energy have resulted in an urgent need to review and overhaul the approach to nuclear power.

It specifically targets for attack the reprocessing of nuclear waste and the safety records of the older generation nuclear power stations, and demands "a radical programme of action to deal with a very serious situation".

The Central Electricity Generating Board has stated that it is planning to build a "small family" of five to six pressurized water reactors by the end of the century in conjunction with two or three coal-fired power stations to cope with the growing energy needs.

Future policy regarding the new generation reactors is likely to be moulded next month in recommendations set out in the Layfield inquiry into the Sizewell B plant.

The TUC report argues that unless the inquiry produces compelling reasons otherwise, no new nuclear installations should be built until a thorough review has been conducted of the industry.

The TUC wants all new power stations to be coal-fired and recommends expansion of coal-fired combined heat and power for district heating. It also wants older nuclear stations to be retired where they fail to meet modern safety standards and for links to be severed between the civil and military programmes.

In the report's introduction, Mr Norman Willis, the TUC general secretary, admits that many members jobs would be affected if the proposed changes were introduced, but says that they are "decisions which must be faced".

Unions representing engineers and electricians, whose members work in nuclear power stations, are strong opponents of phasing out nuclear power.

To appease them, the report suggests that a follow-up study be made on "job conversion".

The report concedes that nuclear power will continue as a source of electricity generation for many years. In the interim it recommends that health and safety regulations be toughened and that Official Secrets Act barriers about the civil nuclear programme be lifted to facilitate monitoring.

Stalker getting back into his stride

Fears on working with Anderton

By Peter Davenport

Mr John Stalker, the reinstated Deputy Chief Constable of Greater Manchester, begins his first full week back at work tomorrow amid concern about future relationships with his chief constable and their effect on the force.

Last night, 48 hours after the decision of the Greater Manchester Police Authority to reject the critical report by Mr Colin Sampson, the Chief Constable of West Yorkshire, Mr Stalker had still had no contact with Mr James Anderton.

The two men, never socially close but always an effective, professional partnership, have not spoken for three months, the day after Mr Stalker was told by the clerk to the police authority of the disciplinary complaints against him.

Then, in response to a telephone call, Mr Anderton called his deputy at home. The conversation was brief. His last words were: "Mr Stalker, you must look after yourself now".

Mr Anderton spent the Bank holiday weekend in the Lake District. Technically, in his absence Mr Stalker was in charge of the 7,000 members of the Greater Manchester force, although day-to-day control was in the hands of a duty assistant chief constable.

Mr Anderton is due to become president of the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) next month, which will involve his spending much time away from his desk. Mr Stalker in effect will be chief constable for much of the year.

Mr Stalker spent six hours at his desk on the eleventh floor of the headquarters, next to Mr Anderton's office, on Saturday to "breathe in the atmosphere of the job again".

An incident on Friday, before the meeting of the Greater Manchester police authority did not help to smooth the return to normal working relationships.

Mr Stalker was told that Mr Anderton had instructed that his parking facilities were to be withdrawn so that he could not leave his car at a police station near his lawyer's office where he was to wait the outcome of the crucial meeting. A television crew in the Stalker house at the time filmed Mrs Stella Stalker's tearful response to the refusal.

Tomorrow Mr Stalker is due to attend his first morning conference of senior officers in three months. Mr Anderton is expected back to chair the meeting.

Some of the officers who were active in the investigation of Mr Stalker's links with the



Mr Stalker working on his farm yesterday before returning to his police duties.

Stalker cannot rule out conspiracy

Continued from page 1

within a matter of weeks in the autumn of 1982.

He was removed from heading the inquiry only days before he was due to return to the Province. He was hoping then to get access to an M15 tape of the shooting of the teenager in a hay barn near Lurgan, Co. Armagh. He also wanted to question the RUC chief constable and his deputy

about their knowledge of the operation.

He was reinstated as deputy chief constable after allegations of misconduct made against him were investigated by a team of detectives from West Yorkshire.

His reinstatement brought demands from Mr Stuart Bell, the Labour Party deputy Northern Ireland spokesman for him to return to the Province to finish his report. That was backed by Mr John Hume, leader of the SDLP.

tion into fraud, Mr Stalker said yesterday.

"My friendship has been in abeyance and will remain so until the cloud over him is removed one way or another. Then I will certainly reassess my relationship with him."

On his return to work Mr Stalker will technically be in charge of detectives working on the Taylor investigation, but, he said yesterday, he would not interfere with the inquiry.

The aftermath of the Stalker affair shows no signs of going away.

Yesterday, MPs called for a judicial inquiry into the origins and the handling of the allegations against Mr Stalker and asked why the £250,000 Sampson inquiry needed to be held at all.

Manchester businessman Mr Kevin Taylor, which eventually led to his suspension and the accusation that he had kept unwise associations with criminals, will also be present at the meeting.

Yesterday, amid concerns expressed by MPs about the effect of the whole affair on the Manchester force, Mr Stalker was anxious to play down any suggestion of a rift with his chief constable or other senior officers.

He said: "Before May Mr Anderton and I had a marvellous working relationship. I respect him greatly as a professional policeman and I am sure he respects me."

"On Tuesday I hope to resume and re-establish that relationship for the benefit of

the force and the public of Greater Manchester.

"I go back with no grudges. As far as the other officers and their role in the matter is concerned, I have no reason to believe they acted in other than good faith at the time."

The report by Mr Sampson recommended that Mr Stalker should face an independent disciplinary tribunal on 10 counts.

After six hours' deliberation the Labour-controlled authority rejected the recommendation and sent Mr Stalker back to work with only a rebuke that he should be more circumspect in his political and criminal relationships in the future.

Of his friendship with Mr Taylor, who has no criminal record but is under investiga-

World chess championship

Kasparov opts for truce in game 10

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

The tenth game in the World Chess Championship at the Park Lane Hotel, central London, was agreed drawn with no further play after Friday's adjournment.

Kasparov's sealed move had been 44 Kf5, but hours of analysis convinced the champion that there was no reasonable way to breach his opponent's defences.

As late as 3.45 on Saturday afternoon, grandmasters and chess experts were grouped in the analysis centre of the Park Lane Hotel convinced that Kasparov would seek to win.

But just before 4pm, Herr Lothar Schmid, the German Chief Arbiter, announced that Kasparov had suggested a truce and eight minutes later the peace treaty was signed on behalf of Karpov.

Game 10 proved conclusively that Karpov is tremendously resilient. He had been disappointed by his failure to win games seven and eight and subsequently failed to make any progress with the white pieces in game nine.

However, the former champion expertly parried all of white's efforts to win this latest game. It was a marvellous defensive achievement by Karpov under difficult circumstances.

The score is now 5½ points to Kasparov and 4½ to Karpov. Two games remain to be played this week in London before the match transfers to Leningrad for the second half.

There has been much speculation concerning the £10,000 special prize offered by Save and Prosper for the most brilliant game of the London half. The view is that either Karpov's win in game five or Kasparov's win in game eight are the front runners.

The Times Grand Master Commentary Room transfers to the Great Eastern Hotel during the Leningrad section of the match. Moves will be typed in directly from Leningrad and explanations will be given by leading international players.

White: Kasparov

Lloyds' challenge

After four rounds of the Lloyds Bank tournament, Grandmaster Adestein of Norway and International Master Murey of Israel share the lead with the maximum score of four points each (Harry Golombek writes).

In round four Adestein defeated the English player, Pein, and Murey mated his young Danish opponent, Kristensen.

Half a point behind are seven players: Adams, Chandler, Hjartarson, Hodgson, Ker, Tangborn and van der Sterren.

Results from round four: van der Sterren ½, Ker ½, Hodgson 1, Heblen ½, Calvo 0, Chandler 1, Nicholson 0, Hjartarson 1, Landerberque ½, Kudrin ½, Rechis ½, Ravitschkar 0, de Gromard 0, NijBoer 0, Plaskett 1, Conde 0.

White	Black	White	Black
1 04	05	29 04	04
2 04	06	24 04	04
3 03	07	26 04	04
4 03	08	26 04	04
5 05	09	27 04	04
6 05	10	28 04	04
7 03	11	29 04	04
8 01	12	30 04	04
9 03	13	31 04	04
10 04	14	32 04	04
11 04	15	33 04	04
12 03	16	34 04	04
13 04	17	35 04	04
14 03	18	36 04	04
15 04	19	37 04	04
16 04	20	38 04	04
17 04	21	39 04	04
18 04	22	40 04	04
19 01	23	41 04	04
20 04	24	42 04	04
21 04	25	43 04	04
22 04	26	44 04	04

Draw agreed.

Threat to Nimrod dismissed by RAF

By Rodney Cowton, Defence Correspondent

The RAF yesterday dismissed as "rubbish" suggestions that senior officers had threatened to resign if the service was required to accept the Nimrod airborne early warning aircraft.

A senior RAF source said: "GEC has until September 3 to demonstrate that the Nimrod can meet our performance requirements. If it can do so we shall be delighted."

In March GEC was given six months under a £50 million contract to show it could meet the RAF's requirements, and for the past two or three months has been claiming to have achieved performance improvements which represented "major progress in resolving the outstanding difficulties".

There is no doubt, however, that whatever those improvements the RAF remains sceptical about whether Nimrod will be brought to the standard demanded. There are understood to be papers circulating in the Ministry of Defence which express that scepticism.

The GEC Nimrod project has so far cost about £900 million and the RAF recognizes that there would be political and financial attractions in continuing with the programme if the Nimrod can be shown to meet or even, perhaps, come close to its performance requirements.

The question of RAF resignations at senior levels would be likely only if it were felt that the service was being required to accept for political reasons an aircraft that would not do the job demanded of it.

Since at least the beginning of the year the RAF has doubted whether the Nimrod could be brought up to its standards and has favoured, instead, the Boeing Awacs, which is one of six contenders if Nimrod is cancelled.

However, it is thought that the cost of seven Awacs would be about £1 billion, whereas GEC is understood to have put in a bid of £450 million or less for completing the Nimrod project.

There is also an agreement with the ministry that if GEC failed to complete the project to time and to price, it would have to bear the cost of any over-run.

The Awacs is said to be operating well with Nato already, and it is argued that if Britain were to switch it would have proven aircraft which met its performance requirements.

Manchester businessman Mr Kevin Taylor, which eventually led to his suspension and the accusation that he had kept unwise associations with criminals, will also be present at the meeting.

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Directors tied up in red tape

By Nicholas Beeston

One in five senior-businessmen believes bureaucratic constraints have increased, in spite of government efforts to reduce red tape, the Institute of Directors says today.

A survey conducted among 200 senior company directors discloses that the Government's efforts to ease the constraints on business have had only a tiny impact on the business community.

Of those interviewed, 72 per cent said that the problems of red tape were unchanged, 22 per cent claimed they had increased, and only 4 per cent reported a reduction in paperwork.

The survey, conducted in the past three weeks, disclosed that 34 per cent of those questioned identified the value-added tax system as the largest problem area.

Equal second were local authority requirements and national insurance contributions, which each polled 12 per cent.

Mr Graham Mather, the head of the institute's policy unit, wrote to Lord Young, the Secretary of State for Employment, last week saying: "Although the government has published two White Papers intended to signal a major programme of deregulation to ease burdens on business, it is clear that businessmen on the ground are not yet seeing results."

New Jersey, Japan and Texas are among the possible "booths" being viewed by businessmen fearful of a Conservative defeat at the next general election, according to an executive recruitment agency.

Talented business people in large and small companies are said to be making tentative plans to move abroad should a government which they see as out of sympathy with business be elected.

Aims of industry, the free enterprise pressure group, said President Reagan's recruiting plans would make the United States "very attractive" to talented business people, even under the present UK administration.

Branson group may be floated

By Alan Bates

Mr Richard Branson could take his music and entertainment empire, the Virgin Group, to the stock market in the next few months (Judith Huntley writes).

A flotation for the company, which includes records, recording studios, property and record shops, has been likely for some time.

However, it is believed that Mr Branson's Virgin Atlantic Airline may be excluded because it could confuse the market's image of the company, estimated to be worth £200 million.

Mr Branson who was appointed by the Prime Minister to head a "clean up Britain campaign" was not available for comment at the weekend.

FitzGerald facing poll defeat

The future of Ireland's coalition government dimmed further yesterday as backbench supporters of Dr Garret FitzGerald talked openly of a probable general election this year.

Dublin observers believe that if a poll is held before Christmas, Dr FitzGerald's two-party administration will be defeated by former Prime Minister Mr Charles Haughey's Fianna Fail group.

A threat to the coalition's future emerged last week when the Irish Labour Party looked forward to a go-it-alone policy. Later, the former Labour minister Mr Frank Cluskey indicated he would not back the Government in Parliament.

Yesterday, Mr Joe Birmingham, a veteran parliamentarian who left Labour earlier this year, confirmed he would most likely vote against Dr FitzGerald in a vote of confidence.

Mrs Alice Glen, a leading backbench critic within Dr FitzGerald's Fine Gael Party said: "The Government is beleaguered on all sides and we are being crucified by taxation."

She singled out the provision of security along the border with Ulster. "It costs us £500 million a year. If Mrs Thatcher and the British want to maintain it they should be asked to subsidise."

The build-up of opposition to Dr FitzGerald's coalition is seen as a threat to the Prime Minister's intention to hold out until November next year, the last possible date for voluntarily calling an election.

Defeat for Dr FitzGerald would deal a potential body blow to the nine-month-old Anglo-Irish Agreement on Ulster.

STUC join protest over exam

The Scottish Trades Union Congress yesterday joined the argument over the introduction of new standard grade examinations in schools which has left thousands of pupils with "no award" certificates.

The STUC says that thousand secondary school pupils lost because the Government disregarded warnings and pressed ahead with the new standard grades, largely based on continuous classroom assessment, during the teachers' dispute.

Its education and training committee condemned the "incompetence and complicity" of the Government's handling of the introduction of the new certificates.

The STUC was calling on the Government and the examination board to ensure recognition for affected students. "We believe that with some significant modification of exam board regulations, the teachers' organizations would be able to ask their members to offer their professional judgment," Mr Campbell Christie, the STUC general secretary said.



Two exotically-costumed children taking a rest from the dancing at the Notting Hill Carnival yesterday (Photograph: Ros Drinkwater).

Carnival spirit fills the streets of Notting Hill

By Angela Johnson

Ethnic groups living in the area served Indian samosas, West Indian patties, Chinese spring rolls, and fish and chips.

The carnival was kept largely trouble-free by a roving police "computer-eye" linking the various police units to Scotland Yard.

A police spokesman said: "Traditionally Monday is the busiest day and we are asking people to continue following our crime prevention instructions to travel by public transport and leave early."

Mr Tony Gardner, aged 47, approves of the "round the houses" racing and voted for it in a referendum of local residents which overwhelmingly approved Birmingham City Council's plans for the Super Prix. But, his wife Joyce, voted against.

She said yesterday, after three hours of practice races and qualifying rounds: "It was alright for about

Moscow puzzler for No 10

By John Winder

Diplomats in London and Moscow are trying to settle a date for Mrs Thatcher to visit Mr Gorbachev in Moscow before the end of next year.

Mrs Thatcher may find that if she sets the date for the spring or autumn of next year it could clash with any later plans for a general election.

If it did, she would probably interrupt her election campaign for the two or three-day trip to Moscow, and derive maximum political benefit from the visit.

The Prime Minister interrupted her last general election campaign for the Williamsburg economic summit with President Reagan and other world leaders in the United States.

The meeting pledged to work for lower inflation and stable exchange rates. Mrs Thatcher returned to Britain at the end of May and went on to win her second election.

In the unlikely event that the two leaders were to meet before Christmas, Mrs Thatcher might be said to be "clearing the decks" for an early general election.

Mr Gorbachev's invitation was issued by Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, the Russian Foreign Minister, when he visited Britain last month.

Mrs Thatcher will be the first British Prime Minister in office to make a full official visit to Moscow since Mr Harold Wilson was there in February 1975.

'Pay up' call by Maxwell

By John Goodbody

Sports News Correspondent

Mr Robert Maxwell, chairman of the Commonwealth Games organizing committee, has asked the 32 countries who boycotted last month's Games in Edinburgh for a total of £2.7 million to help to pay creditors.

With the Games showing a deficit of £3.8 million, Mr Maxwell has written to the heads of Commonwealth countries saying that the boycott, caused by the British Government's refusal to impose full economic sanctions against South Africa, damaged last-minute sponsorship and fund-raising.

Mr Maxwell has asked for an average of £85,000 from each of the countries. Kenya faces the biggest bill, £277,000. India has been asked for £245,000 and Nigeria £196,000.

Mr Maxwell says in his letter that although the company still hopes to raise part of the £3.8 million needed "without help from governments, there is no prospect of meeting more than a fraction of the total deficit."

A spokeswoman for Mr Maxwell, owner of Mirror Group Newspapers, declined to say what the next step would be if the countries, as expected in most cases, do not pay.

Mr Ryoichi Sasakawa, a Japanese philanthropist, is expected to underwrite the losses, although that has never been officially confirmed.

Family divided as racing cars speed past front window

By Craig Seton

The normally sedate Sunday lunch of the Gardner family of Birmingham was shattered yesterday as supercharged racing cars thundered by only 10 yards from their modest semi-detached house at speeds of over 150 mph.

The family lives at one of the closest points to the Birmingham Super Prix circuit and on one of the fastest sections. As they tucked into roast lamb, potatoes and vegetables, racing drivers preparing for a tight bend decelerated and braked in a

few yards from the Gardner household blared out the race commentary.

Mr Tony Gardner, aged 47, approves of the "round the houses" racing and voted for it in a referendum of local residents which overwhelmingly approved Birmingham City Council's plans for the Super Prix. But, his wife Joyce, voted against.

She said yesterday, after three hours of practice races and qualifying rounds: "It was alright for about

five minutes but now the racket is terrible."

"I suppose if it is a success, we will have to put up with it every year and I do not want that."

"Old folk living opposite are virtual prisoners in their homes and I am worried about what would happen if there was a crash at such speeds. I just wonder if cars could crash over the barriers."

Mr Gardner, a palaeontologist, was unimpressed and said: "I am quite prepared to accept this for only two days a year if it helps Birmingham."

Port strike fear ends

The threat of a strike by immigration officers at Channel ports was removed yesterday after the Home Office withdrew an order for the transfer of 30 officers in Heathrow Airport.

The officers had voted for a one-day strike on Friday in protest at the compulsory transfer of 21 officers from Harwich, Dover, Folkestone and Ramsgate to Heathrow.

Professor dies

Professor John Gwyn Clark, aged 62, head of the Department of Modern Languages at Strathclyde University, died on Saturday while hill-walking with a Boys' Brigade group near Ben Venue, in Tayside. It was disclosed yesterday. He lived in Giffnock, Glasgow.

Blaze drama

A Surrey ambulance crew fled their burning vehicle yesterday. The crew were heading for their base in Guildford after attending a fire call when colleagues behind spotted smoke pouring from the vehicle. A faulty exhaust pipe was blamed.

PC shooting

A man is recovering in hospital after being accidentally shot by Police Constable Philip Olds, who was patrolled by a gunman six years ago. The accident happened at PC Olds' home in Pinner, west London, on Saturday.

Ministers accused of failing in fight against bad-diet deaths

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

The Government is failing in its duty to provide national guidance on food and health in spite of Britain's "dismal" death rates from diet-related diseases, according to a leading medical journal.

The current advice on eating animal fats, sugars, salt, dairy products, dietary fibre and the consumption of alcohol has been either ambiguous or inadequate, the editorial says.

Under a headline "Britain needs a food and health policy - the Government must face its duty", the editorial gives a warning that the British death rates from heart disease and diet-related cancers are dismal compared with other industrialized countries.

Ulcer hazard in a cup of steaming hot tea

A medical research team believes it may have pinpointed a new hazard to healthy living: a steaming hot cup of tea.

Two surgeons, Dr Rory McCloy and Dr Robert Pearson, have discovered a "significant link" between the temperature at which people like to sip hot drinks and ulcer complaints.

The preferred food and drink temperatures of ulcer patients have been compared with those which "normal" subjects select. They are running a free tea and coffee service to achieve "control group" comparisons and have found that the ulcer patients generally prefer a hotter cup of tea.

"Our research has already shown a significant link between hot drinks and ulcers but whether it is a causal link we do not know. That will be

for future research," Dr McCloy said.

Dr McCloy added: "We have found some patients prefer their tea or coffee at temperatures up to 70 degrees centigrade. If you stepped into a bath with water that temperature it would scald you."

Dr McCloy began to specialise in stomach problems after operating on a psychiatric patient who had swallowed a clinical thermometer. It had given a maximum temperature reading of 43.5 degrees Celsius, compared with a normal blood temperature of 37C. "It made me think that hot things could cause stomach and duodenal ulcers," he said.

Dr McCloy and his colleagues are including some cancer patients in their research but so far their data does not suggest a link between hot drinks and that disease.

The doctors expect to begin publishing their findings early next year.

There is little sign, however, of either a dedicated government advocacy of eating patterns which might prevent disease or the provision of officially sanctioned guidance whereby individuals might more readily form their own judgement about the healthiness of their diet.

The *Lancet* article accuses the Government of delaying or disowning reports drawn up by experts. It says that efforts to obstruct one such report in 1983 seemed to come from the Department of Health itself.

The terms of reference of a subsequent report of the Committee on Medical Aspects of Food Policy were limited and a third report, from the Joint Advisory Committee on Nutritional Education, "suffered from further government interference" over dairy products. Neither it nor the NACNE report has received government endorsement.

Earlier this year, the article says, the Government produced evidence on the poor diet of schoolchildren only after there were public criticisms over delays in publishing the evidence.

The editorial says vested interests in the food industry are gaining from the Government's reticence and it urges ministers to adopt a less ambiguous stance.

"A first step would be to identify healthy eating as a responsibility of a single minister. The minister for health seems a most appropriate owner of this charge."

"A national food and health policy should be developed, identifying the Government's co-ordinating responsibility between all areas of national policy which affect food consumption."

"Most urgently, the Government should produce and promote national dietary guidelines which are scientifically acceptable."



Competitors in London's fourth International Power Boat Grand Prix providing a thrilling spectacle yesterday as they raced on the Thames at Royal Victoria Dock. Boats from Italy, Germany, France, the United States and Britain are vying for the world series and for the Harmsworth Trophy. The event finishes today (Photograph: Stuart Nicol).

Caring in the community

SDP plans 'family charter'

By Jill Sherman

A "carers charter" to help the thousands of people who look after relatives at home, is proposed by the Social Democratic Party today in a discussion paper on care in the community.

Ninety per cent of mentally ill people and 80 per cent of those who are mentally handicapped are cared for full time by their families. "Without these carers the burden on public services would be overwhelming," it says.

It argues that families will have to carry more of the burden as a result of government policies to close down long-stay hospitals and small geriatric hospitals without providing sufficient resources to build community services.

The charter calls for a special carer's benefit and the extension of the invalid care allowance to married women.

It proposes providing residential places for "respite" leave to give carers a break, building more day care centres with a range of medical, social and educational services, and offering reliable transport services at agreed times.

Regular meals on wheels, luncheon clubs, frequent laundry services for incontinent patients and evening and day sitting services are also proposed. In addition carers should also be given priority housing allocation, it says.

"Informal carers must be given power and resources to help them care, and to enable them to build their own lives," the paper says.

The party also wants to give consumers more power to determine the services they need. "Consumers should be able to express what they want and to participate in decision-making about the planning, development and implementation of services to help them," it says.

Clients should have an equal status with the professionals providing the services, the paper says.

Give GPs cash to treat elderly, says charity

Family doctors should be given financial incentives to encourage them to treat elderly people, a report published by the voluntary organisation Age Concern England says today (Jill Sherman writes).

The charity suggests that general practitioners could be paid on a system similar to that used for family planning, where doctors undertake to provide certain care established in government guidelines.

Doctors were more attracted to work with younger people because they could claim fees for maternity care, child immunisation, family planning and cervical cancer screening, the report says.

Special payments made to GPs for each elderly person on their lists (per capita fees) accounted for only 5 per cent of their total income.

Fees for the elderly could be

paid to doctors for physical examinations tailored to elderly disorders; setting up age/sex registers for health surveillance and for chronically sick and disabled people.

The report acknowledges that the immediate removal of per capita payments would be opposed by the medical profession but suggests that those rise at less than the inflation rate.

The money saved could be used for experimental projects to look at ways of encouraging GPs to work with elderly people.

Age Concern also calls on the Government to provide extra cash for family doctor services. "Only 6.6 per cent of the NHS budget is spent on GP services, yet 95 per cent of all consultations with doctors are with NHS GPs," it says.

Doctors should be more willing to make home visits and spend time with older people.

Police see friends of dead boys

Police in Yorkshire and Grampian are to interview the friends of two schoolboys who died in separate incidents while playing at the weekend.

In North Yorkshire they will question 20 children who attended a birthday party at a remote farm where a boy aged six died in a cesspit.

In Scotland police are investigating the death of a boy aged eight whose body was recovered yesterday from the sea near Finden, south of Aberdeen, as he and three boys of the same age were trapped by the rising tide at the foot of a cliff on Saturday evening. The others were rescued by an inshore rescue craft.

North Yorkshire police frogmen found the body of James Radmore, of Woodlands, Ruffa Lane, Pickering, early yesterday as a search involving 200 volunteers and a RAF helicopter resumed. He disappeared about on Saturday afternoon as the children played party games on Ox Close Farm, Hutton-le-Hole.

The police were called in after about two hours and local rescue teams, local gamekeepers and parents of party guests began searching the moors around the farm.

Last night, Chief Superintendent Brian Bennington said a post mortem examination was being carried out. He added: "This could be a tragic accident but investigations will continue."

Portfolio Gold - £8,000 win for former RN officer

A retired Royal Navy commander from Bath was yesterday's outright winner of the weekly Portfolio Gold prize of £8,000.

Commander Mark Romer, aged 62, of Sion Hill, Bath, a regular reader of *The Times*, said he had been playing the game regularly soon after it was started.

He said yesterday: "This is very helpful when you are retired and it will come in handy for all sorts of things such as a holiday and buying another car as the old one is due for a change."

"I have plenty of relatives, including an uncle and various cousins in Portugal and I think I will have a month out there as a holiday to see them all. Besides, who experiences difficulty obtaining a gold card should send a stamped addressed envelope to: Portfolio Gold, The Times, PO Box 40, Blackburn, BB1 6AJ."

Geldof's marriage blessed

A security operation, described by the police as a "big problem" than a "presidential tour wrapped up with a royal visit", was mounted yesterday for the blessing of the marriage of Mr Bob Geldof KBE and Miss Paula Yates, a television pop show hostess.

The couple's home, Darrington Priory, near Faversham, Kent, was ringed by police and private security officers as pop stars arrived for the ceremony.

But about 100 local well wishers and pop fans gathered outside were disappointed when the couple did not make an appearance.

A police spokesman said: "Frankly, there would be less of a problem with security if this was a presidential tour wrapped up with a royal visit. Only invited guests are being allowed inside. They are insisting it is a private function, and that's it."

Mr Geldof and Miss Yates, who have lived together for eight years and have a daughter, aged 3, were married in Las Vegas in June.

Miss Yates' father, Mr Jeff Yates, played the organ at the 20-minute service, performed by the Rev Michael Anderson in St Mary Magdalene and St Lawrence Church next to the Geldofs' home.

Producers fear TV intrusion

By Gavin Bell Arts Correspondent

Television documentaries on personal relationships raise moral issues about intrusion of privacy, and it may be more appropriate to deal with such subjects through drama, Mr Udi Eichler, an independent producer, said yesterday.

Mr Eichler told a debate on "real-people shows" at the Edinburgh International Television Festival that he had left Thames Television four years ago after being disturbed by the ethics of some of the documentaries he had made.

"I found it more and more difficult to deal with, so I stopped doing it. I sometimes suspected that the motive of people participating in the programmes was self-destruction," he said.

Producers frequently turned people into objects, treating them in a way they would not do in normal relationships. "Perhaps documentaries should focus on public issues, and not investigate private matters. Drama would be a more powerful medium for this," he said.

Mr Paul Watson, a BBC producer, conceded that documentary-makers sometimes "played God". However, he denied that they exploited people by intruding in their private lives; rather, they tried to develop an understanding with people who had agreed to be filmed.

Mr Alan Boyd, controller of entertainment at London Weekend Television, said that he was aware of the risk of humiliating people, and would not broadcast any material that they wished to be deleted.

However, the headmaster of a school which had been the subject of a documentary said that producers should agree in advance to share editorial control with the contributors, including the right of veto.

Mr Chuck Barris, who produces game shows for United States television networks, said that documentaries in the US were diminishing because of the huge popularity and profitability of the kind of programmes he made.

School 'can make delinquents'

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

The way schools can produce delinquents is shown in a bulletin of the Home Office Research and Planning Unit to be published on Wednesday.

Pupils at risk are those who become isolated and pushed to the fringes of school life because they do not feel sufficiently attached to it or because of their behaviour or academic status, the bulletin says.

The detrimental effect of academic failure on the way pupils see themselves is persistently associated with delinquency, Mr John Graham, of the unit, says.

Anti-school groups develop as a result of influences that push pupils away from the core of the school.

Truancy has been a problem for more than 100 years, with rates of absenteeism remaining fairly stable since the beginning of this century.

Such behaviour has long been associated with delinquency and anti-social behaviour. One study showed that between 44 per cent and 48 per cent of secondary school truants were offenders, compared with 14 per cent to 16 per cent of non-truants.

Children in adult jails a scandal, says trust

By Our Home Affairs Correspondent

The imprisonment of children means that little has changed since Victorian times, Mr Stephen Shaw, director of the Prison Reform Trust, said yesterday.

He was commenting on a report, *Remanding of Juveniles*, by the trust which showed that more than 1,500 boys aged 15 and 16 were remanded in prison last year. The report referred to one case in which a boy aged 15 was held in Hull top security prison on a charge of shoplifting goods worth £3.

"When our prisons are grotesquely overburdened and local authority resources grossly overstretched it is scandalous that so many young people are being remanded into prison or other secure

accommodation", Mr Shaw said.

Because up to half of remanded juveniles did not receive a custodial sentence on conviction, more than 1,000 young people were undergoing a potentially damaging experience with no appreciable benefits either to them or the community.

The trust also criticized the fact that, unlike a remand in custody, time spent by a juvenile in secure units did not count against sentence.

The trust said it was writing to the Home Secretary calling upon him, in this autumn's Criminal Justice Bill, to tighten the rules governing the remanding of juveniles.

Remanding of Juveniles (Prison Reform Trust, 59 Caledonian Road, London N1 9BU; £1).

Children who get £20 a week

Nearly one child in four is given at least £20 a week pocket money, according to a survey published yesterday, and 7 per cent get about £30, or more than £1,500 a year.

The figures are in a survey carried out on behalf of Postin's Holidays.

Researchers also found that children in the North rather than the South benefit most from their parents' generosity at the £20 level and above.

The survey says that 1 per cent of children said they got no pocket money; 40 per cent got £5 or less a week and 65 per cent £10 or under. The total receiving £20 or more was 24 per cent.

The survey was based on a sample of 531 children aged between 8 and 15 from Greater London and the South-east, Birmingham, Leeds, Glasgow and Bristol.

It was made up equally of boys and girls and there was an equal split between children whose parents were from professional classes and those in blue-collar and manual jobs.

The researchers found that parents' income did not generally affect the amount they gave their children, except at the £30-plus-a-week level, where most of the youngsters came from professional groups.

The Postin's survey's main aim was to find out children's holiday habits. It confirmed that most children preferred to spend their holidays playing sports and eating fish and chips. Only 6 per cent favoured sunbathing.

August has been disappointing, with generally more rain and drier days and the Bank holiday forecast presents little hope of a sharp recovery.

Britain's warmest place by the coast a week last Saturday was Clacton, Essex, at 23C (73F), which was cool by comparison with the Spanish island of Majorca which has had daytime temperatures of 30C (86F) and above for most of the month.

Forecast, page 14

The Robin Answering Machine. Just plug it in, turn it on and away you go.

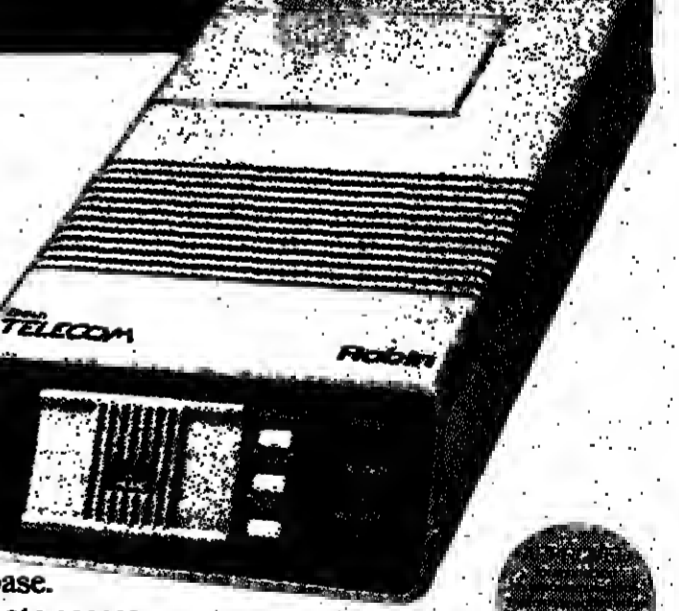
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Not a bad summer, after all

By Mark Ellis

Britain's weather this summer has been no worse than usual, despite the popular impression that it has been one of the the Meteorological Office says.

It adds that holidays abroad and memories of sultry British summers have conditioned people to expect better weather than our climate allows; in fact, the summer so far has been about average in all aspects: sunshine, rainfall and temperature.

The first half of the summer saw some of the best weather.

From June 1 to August 15 daytime temperatures were slightly below normal in most of the country, but better in East Anglia and the South-east.

The highest recorded temperature was at Littlehampton in West Sussex with 32C (90F) on June 28; Southampton on the previous day was a close second with 31.9C (89F).

The coldest night was -0.2C (32F), which was low enough for an air frost, at Eskdalemuir in Dumfries and Galloway, Scotland.

June and July were drier than average, but a wet August shifted the balance.

The South-west had more rain than other parts of Britain, but the East was much drier. The total average rainfall for England and Wales was 129.8 millimetres, which was 74 per cent of normal. In Scotland it was 195.9 or 91 per cent of normal.

Hours of sunshine totalled 437.6 in England and Wales, which was 93 per cent of what was expected, and Scotland, with 394 hours, had its full

average share of summer sunshine.

August has been disappointing, with generally more rain and drier days and the Bank holiday forecast presents little hope of a sharp recovery.

Forecast, page 14

Handwritten Arabic text at the bottom of the page.

Free newspapers: 1

Hard-sell success gives new confidence in hunt for advertising revenue

Targeting for Profit is an apt theme for next month's sixth annual conference of the Association of Free Newspapers...

More than 600 delegates are expected to meet for four days at the Metropole Hotel, Birmingham...

Despite the problems with his troubled *Today*, Mr Eddy Shah's decision last week to buy the Warrington Guardian...

Only a minority of households in Britain have escaped the unsolicited deliveries of one or more free newspapers...

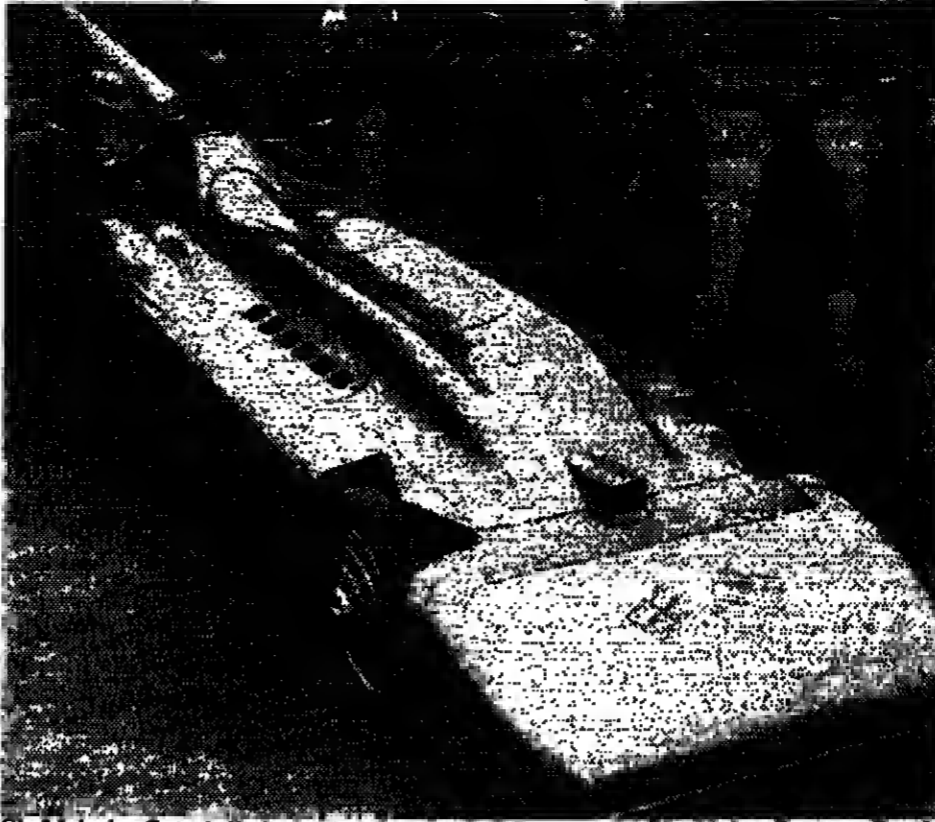
A dynamic new force in Britain's publishing industry has been the growth of free newspapers...

readership, which could be quantified by market research...

Free Distribution set up by Verified Free Distribution as a subsidiary company to certify free publications' delivery...

According to Advertising Association figures, free weekly newspapers have enjoyed a steady growth in advertising revenue...

The free newspaper industry is keen to publicize various research surveys...



Sir Malcolm Campbell sits behind the wheel of the powerful Bluebird at Daytona Beach, Florida. Picture from *The Times*, January 10, 1935.

Trust aims to bring Bluebird home

A fresh attempt is to be made to bring Sir Malcolm Campbell's Bluebird back to Britain from the United States...

preserving Britain's transport heritage. It hopes to raise about £1 million to buy Bluebird...

After his death in 1947, his son Donald sold Bluebird to finance his own attempt at the water speed record...

The Times crop survey

Domestic harvest may reach record level, say farmers

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

Domestic production will be well above last year's total harvest and could well approach 1984's record...

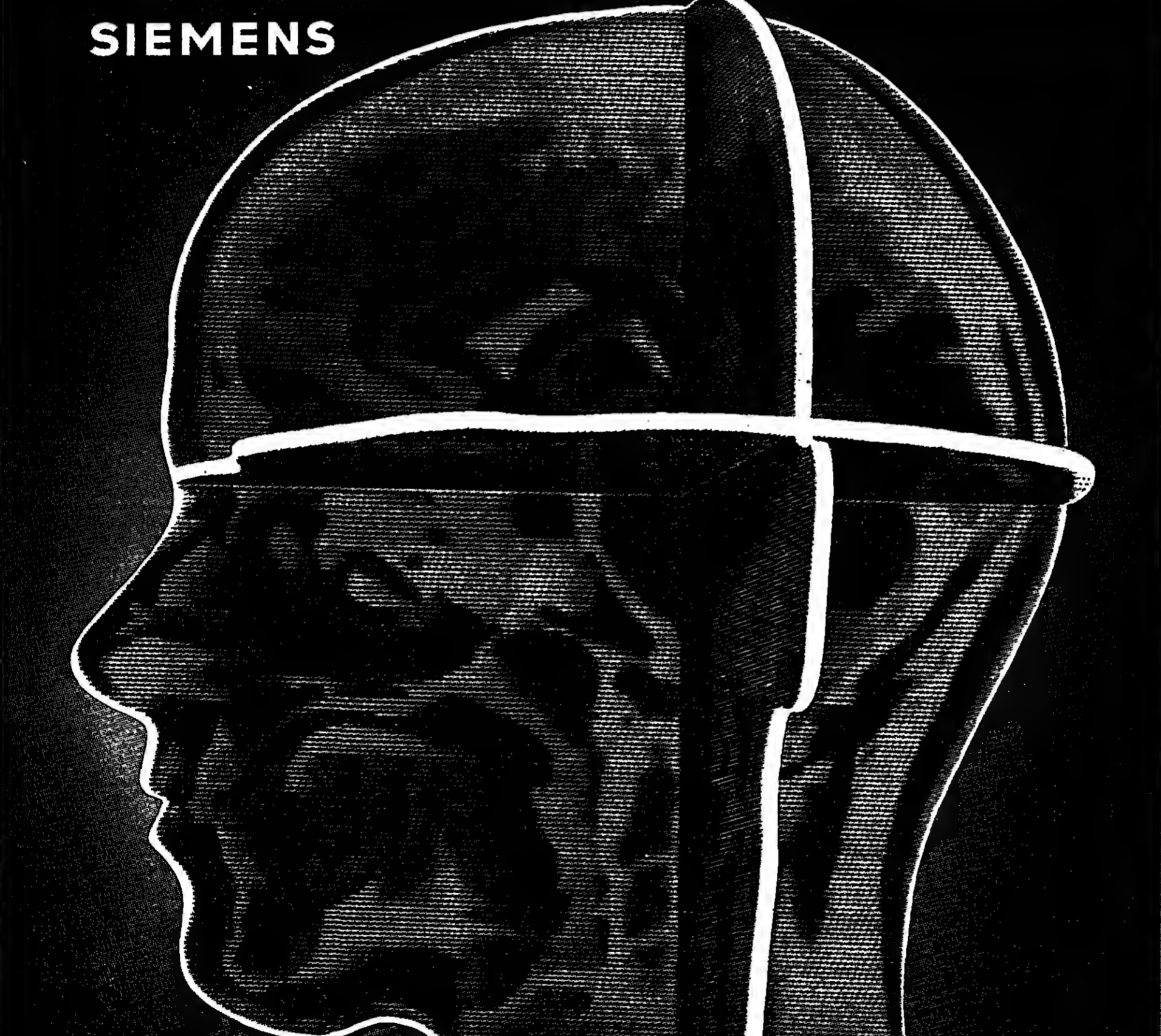
Table with columns: ENGLAND, Division 1, Division 2, Division 3, Division 4, English Average. Rows include counties like Bedford, Cambridgeshire, Essex, etc.

Responses to questionnaires disclose a more optimistic appraisal than in the survey published on June 23.

Farmers in all parts of the country taking part in the survey express surprise and pleasure at the way crops have recovered from the effects of the cold winter and wet spring...

Table with columns: SCOTLAND, Borders, Central, Dumfries/Galloway, Dumfriesshire, Highland, Lothian, Orkney, Shetland, Strathclyde, Tayside, Western Isles. Rows include counties like Clackmannanshire, Fife, etc.

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The City whizz-kids

Where gut reactions are tools of the trade

By Mark Dowd

Young spot dealers are the cogs in the machinery of the London foreign exchange market...

keep themselves in touch with the economic news for each country they're dealing with and, above all, people who develop a gut feeling for currency movements.

In the dealing room of the Lloyds Bank Treasury Division in the City, an open plan area is peppered with young men in white shirts and ties...

Foreign exchange spot dealers began on the bottom rung of the ladder as position clerks. 'We're looking for people with fast reactions, who

Con Kho

Iranian... Atallah... war, fight... 'finish off' Saddam...

Pan

Pan Am... million... US... sales...

The Times crop survey
Domestic harvest
may reach record
level, say farmers

African leaders invite Reagan to summit on apartheid

Lusaka (Reuters) — The leaders of Africa's frontline states have agreed to invite President Reagan to a summit in southern Africa to discuss how to end apartheid in South Africa, sources at the Zambian presidency said yesterday.

They said President Kaunda, the chairman of the group, disclosed this for the first time when he met black American civil rights leader, Mr Jesse Jackson, on Saturday night.

If President Reagan had turned down the invitation, frontline leaders from Angola, Botswana, Mozambique, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe were prepared to go to Washington, the sources said.

The decision to invite President Reagan was made at a one-day meeting of frontline leaders held during a summit conference of the South Africa Development Co-ordination Conference in Angola last week.

President Kaunda told Mr Jackson that President Reagan was one man who could play a leading role in helping to change the course of history in the region. The invitation was being drafted for approval during the triennial summit conference of the Non-Aligned Movement in Hanoi next week.

President Kaunda was among hundreds of people who attended a special service at St Paul's church in Lusaka yesterday during which Mr Jackson preached. He told the congregation to protect their souls from the scourge of apartheid through God's word. "Apartheid is ungodly and an enemy of all souls," he said, before leaving for Tanzania.

JOHANNESBURG: Lawyers representing a leading Catholic priest, Father Smanigalis Mkhawana — the secretary-general of the Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference, who is detained under the state of emergency — are to seek an injunction from the Pretoria Supreme Court restraining the police

Commit suicide or flee, Khomeini tells Saddam

Tehran (Reuters) — The Iranian spiritual leader, Ayatollah Khomeini, said yesterday that Iran must reject any arbitration in the Gulf war, fight until victory and "finish off" Iraq's President Saddam Hussein.

"We should submit neither to imposed peace nor to imposed arbitration," he told senior officials and military commanders at a mosque near his north Tehran home.

"We should continue the war until victory — and it is near. If our nation wants to bring this victory closer, it must prepare in the true sense of the word to... finish off this man (Saddam Hussein)," the Ayatollah said in a broadcast speech.

"There are people who urge peace and accommodation. Not that they are of any consequence," he said. "Some say: 'Let's find an arbiter to sort things out.' In these seven years, we have come to know who these arbiters are and what sort of people the would-be peacemakers can be," he added.

Tehran has set three conditions for ending the six-year-old war: Withdrawal of troops to international borders, payment of reparations by Iraq, and punishment of President Hussein as the aggressor.

Pan Am in safety fine

Pan American Airways has been fined a record \$1.95 million (\$1.43m) for violating US regulations on aircraft safety maintenance, the Federal Aviation Administration has announced.

The financially hard-pressed airline has agreed to pay the fine, the largest ever collected by the FAA.

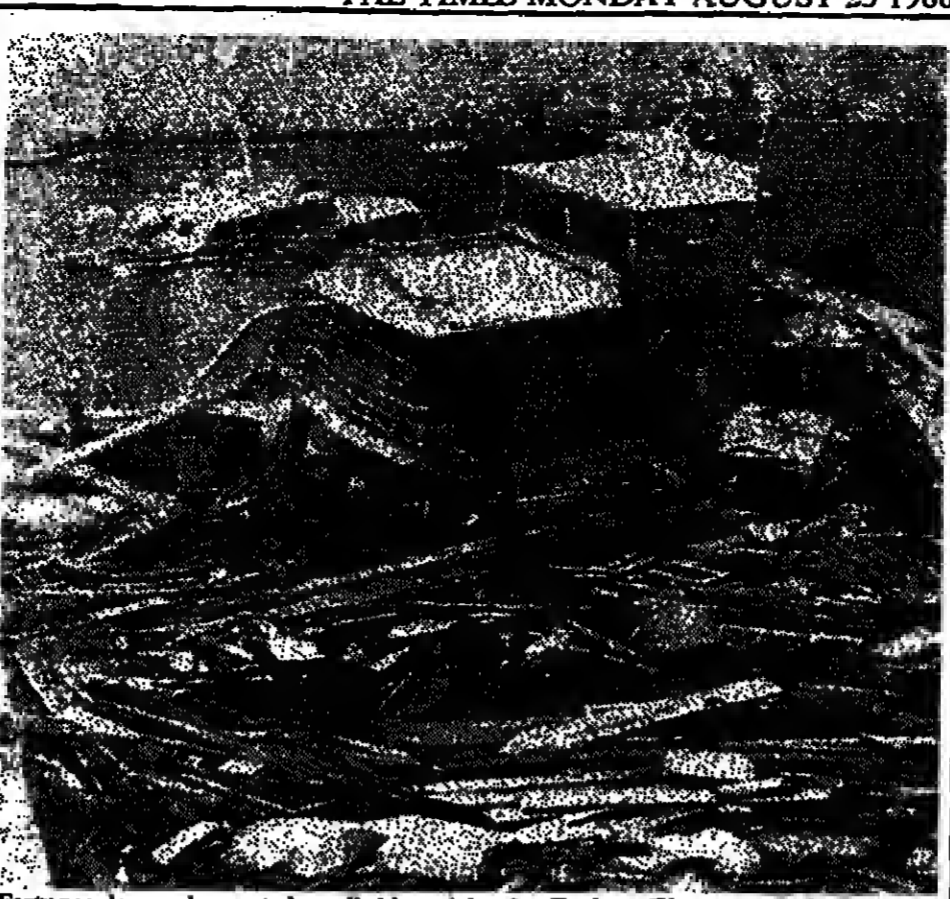
A two-month audit of Pan Am's maintenance records last spring disclosed hundreds of errors.

Inspectors found the airline had operated aircraft in need of repair, had installed parts that were beyond their approved service life and had failed to inspect planes within the time limits laid down.

Moscow defiance on Star Wars

The Soviet Union could counter America's Star Wars missile defence system by such methods as space mines or saturation deployment of warheads, a senior Soviet scientist said on Moscow television (Reuters reports).

In a broadcast, monitored in London by the BBC, Mr Roald Sagdeyev, the director of the Academy of Sciences Space Research Institute, said various options were available for use against President Reagan's planned anti-missile



Forty people were known to have died last night after Typhoon Wayne struck the Peng-hu islands east of Taiwan, destroying 3,000 homes, capsizing 1,000 fishing boats and damaging 96,000 acres of farmland. A sinking patrol craft is seen amid the wreckage of other boats.

Museveni blames Sudanese

From Charles Harrison Nairobi
President Museveni of Uganda has accused Sudan of arming and supplying the rebel troops who last week launched strong attacks against several places in northern Uganda, including the main town, Gulu.

He told diplomats in Kampala on Saturday that 3,000 members of the former Ugandan Army, which his National Resistance Army ousted in a coup last January, had launched the attacks from the southern Sudan, where they fled earlier this year.

He asked friendly countries to put pressure on the Sudan Government to control the situation on the border.

Mr Museveni also said that Sudanese Army units which had been isolated in the guerrilla war in the southern Sudan had planned to use northern Uganda as a supply base for their operations —

Kenya priests keep politics private

From Our Correspondent Nairobi
Pastors in Protestant churches in Kenya have been attacked by President Moi for saying that they cannot participate in new proposals to select parliamentary candidates by lining up in public behind the candidate of their choice.

A conference organized by the National Christian Council of Kenya last week agreed it would be incompatible with their role as spiritual leaders to declare publicly their support for one candidate against another.

Kenya's only political party, the Kenya African National Union (KANU), has endorsed the proposal to use the "lining

Peres makes friends with Cameroon today

From David Bernstein, Jerusalem
Israel and Cameroon are expected to announce the resumption of diplomatic relations during a planned visit by the Israeli Prime Minister, Mr Shimon Peres, to Yaounde today.

Cameroon severed diplomatic ties with Israel in 1973, along with all but three black African states, in protest at Israel's invasion of the western (African) bank of the Suez Canal during the Yom Kippur war with Egypt.

Mr Peres's visit to Cameroon — which will be the first by an Israeli Prime Minister to Africa since 1962 — and the expected resumption of diplomatic relations marks an important step in Israel's drive to regain some of the ground it lost in Africa in 1973.

Insects 'may be African Aids carriers'

Budapest (AFP) — A range of Central African insects — mosquitoes, cockroaches, tsetse flies and lion ants — are infected by Aids and could be its carriers, a French researcher, M Jean-Claude Cherman, of the Paris-based Pasteur Institute has told an international congress on cancer here.

Devil's brew of dissension in Church

From Peter Nichols Rome
The Devil and Father Charles E Curran are awakening new fears of tighter discipline of Roman Catholic intellectuals by the Vatican.

Father Curran was dismissed last Monday from his post as Professor of Moral Theology at the Catholic University of America in Washington. The announcement followed two talks by the Pope on the presence of the Devil in the modern world.

The timing of the announcement and the two papal homilies was no doubt coincidental, but there is seen to be a disquieting psychological link between them.

Russians win support Safety measures after Chernobyl

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor
The world's leading experts in atomic energy and radiation medicine are gathering in Vienna for an international inquiry into April's Chernobyl disaster amid signs of support for the Russians from countries with large investments in nuclear power, such as Britain, the United States, West Germany, France and Japan.

By the end of the week the meeting organizer, the International Atomic Energy Agency, is expected to make at least four proposals for its member countries to adopt. These will cover: Tighter safety measures to avoid a repetition of Chernobyl; a more effective alarm network to alert neighbouring countries; an emergency service through which help and rescue can be channelled; and an international medical research programme to help monitor the effects of Chernobyl fallout in the Soviet Union, possibly for the next 50 years.

During the week the Soviet delegation, which was among the 23-member State Commission which prepared a 388-page report on the accident to be tabled today at the private meeting, can expect a grilling from the countries that do not rely heavily on nuclear power.

There is also a feeling here among anti-nuclear groups, such as Friends of The Earth, which have arrived to petition the meeting, that the international nuclear industry will close ranks and protect its Soviet colleagues from too hostile questioning.

The anxiety rests partly on the fact that the International Atomic Energy Agency, which is the United Nations organization responsible for monitoring the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, also has the job of promoting nuclear energy for industrial, agricultural and medical purposes.

But in the past few years several member governments, such as those of Austria and Sweden, have declared a moratorium on the expansion of nuclear energy.

Questions from the Scandinavians are expected to be very direct. They felt the first impact of the fall-out from Chernobyl; raised the alarm when their radiation monitors showed fall-out occurring; and can remember how for 48 hours the Russians denied that anything had happened in the Soviet Union which could produce the radiation.

New plant flooded

Underground flooding at the weekend at France's newest nuclear power plant at Cattenom, on the Luxembourg-West German border, is likely to have set back its autumn opening date (Susan MacDonald writes from Paris).

M Jean-Pierre Bergeron, the plant director, said the flooding resulted from a break in the pipes of the primary water-cooling system and at "no time was the nuclear safety of the installations affected". The plant has been the scene of continuous anti-nuclear demonstrations over the past few months.

Figures of jobless shock the French

From Susan MacDonald, Paris
After the relatively encouraging July figures on growth, exports and prices, the record-breaking high unemployment figures for the same month have struck a blow to the French Government and opened a debate on alternative jobs.

The figures for July — which for the first time listed the number of jobs wanted as well as the percentage of those out of work — showed a 1.4 per cent increase in demands for jobs and an unemployment rate of 10.5 per cent, compared with 10.4 per cent for June.

Although France's unemployment level is still lower than that of many European countries, including Britain, the July demands-for-jobs figure of 2,474,000 represents a 2.5 per cent increase since July last year.

M Philippe Seguin, the Minister for Social Affairs, forecast last month that the July figures would be worse than the figures for the previous month. He also said he did not expect an improvement until the autumn, when new employment laws would take effect.

M Seguin has also said that between 2 and 2.5 million unemployed is an irreducible figure unless radical change is forthcoming. The idea of such a figure has caused several economic experts to warn against complacency on the issue and has led M Edmond Maire, secretary general of the CFTU union group, which is closely aligned to the Socialists, to demonstrate his pragmatism in a long *Le Monde* article suggesting a new approach to the unemployed.

M Maire talks of a new approach where everyone can be involved in some form of activity, even if not in work in the usual sense, and therefore be part of the working population. To achieve this, both unions and workers must adapt their ideas and the rigid line between the active and inactive must be overcome, he says.

M Seguin has already begun to boost the number of temporary jobs with laws passed in July which make it easier for employers to hire temporary workers and dismiss employees, by eliminating the need for government authorization to do so. It remains to be seen, in the autumn unemployment figures, whether one piece of legislation will cancel out the other.

It also remains to be seen what stimulus the Government's 1987 budget, to be announced in the autumn, can give to industry.

Chinese live longer

Peking (Reuters) — The average Chinese can expect to live for almost 69 years, nearly double the life expectancy before the 1949 communist revolution, the New China News Agency said yesterday.

It quoted the State Statistical Bureau as saying men could now expect to reach 66.9 years and women 70.9. Life expectancy for both sexes in 1949 was about 35 years, it said.

Better living standards and health care and an 83 per cent drop in the infant mortality rate were the main reasons for the jump in life expectancy, in China.

Farewell to the Carter era

Washington — The last vestiges of the Carter Administration were removed from the White House with the dismantling of a solar water heater, installed by the former President to save energy costs (Michael Binyon writes).

The 33 solar collectors used to supply about 75 per cent of the hot water for the presidential offices and staff dining room, cost about \$30,000 (£20,000). The savings from the system were "negligible".

Ship skipper identified

Toronto (UPI) — One of the more than 150 Sri Lankan castaways rescued off Canada's east coast two weeks ago identified Herr Wolfgang Bindel, the skipper of the West German freighter *Amigasa*, as the captain who set the refugees adrift, the *Toronto Star* reported.

It said Vallipuram Mahendran, 23, identified Herr Bindel from a photograph.

Moscow drugs deaths

Moscow (Reuters) — The daily *Sovetskaya Russia* giving examples of growing drug addiction in the Soviet Union, reported that members of a teenage gang stole drugs from Moscow medical institutions and two of them, aged 15 and 17, died of drug poisoning.

The report was the latest in the official press to give details of increasing drug addiction among Soviet youths.

China floods

Peking (AP) — Floods during the past two months in China's north-eastern province of Jilin destroyed 400,000 homes, leaving 800,000 people homeless, the *People's Daily* reported. The floods started in July with torrential rainstorms and resulted in damage to 3,500 villages and 44 per cent of the province's farmland.

Nimeiri move

Cairo (Reuters) — Egyptian lawyers acting for Sudan asked for the withdrawal of former Sudanese President Nimeiri's right to political asylum in Egypt. They also asked the State Administrative Court for Mr Nimeiri's passport to be confiscated to prevent him leaving Egypt.

Bandit raid

Karachi (Reuters) — At least seven people, including two policemen, were killed in a gun battle between police and bandits armed with rocket launchers in Pakistan's Sind province. The battle erupted after about 50 bandits attacked a village near the town of Dadu, destroying its watch tower with rockets.

Alps deaths

Zurich (Reuters) — Two Hungarian climbers fell to their deaths while attempting to scale Switzerland's 14,900-ft Matterhorn. In West Germany, four climbers were killed in a sudden snow storm which hit the Watzmann peak near Berchtesgaden.

'Dynasty' fan

Hamburg (UPI) — Rudolf Hess, Hitler's former deputy, aged 92, passes the time in Spandau prison for war criminals watching *Dallas, Dynasty* and reading *War and Peace*, the newspaper *Bild* reported.

Lover recalled

Hollywood (UPI) — Weeping women and one "lady in black" joined hundreds of mourners at the crypt of Rudolph Valentino to pay homage to the silent screen idol "the world's greatest lover" on the 60th anniversary of his death.

Toxic gas

Yaounde (AP) — Toxic gas spewing from a lake inside a volcanic crater in Cameroon has killed 40 people, Cameroon radio said that specialists and equipment were sent to the region to cope with the emergency.

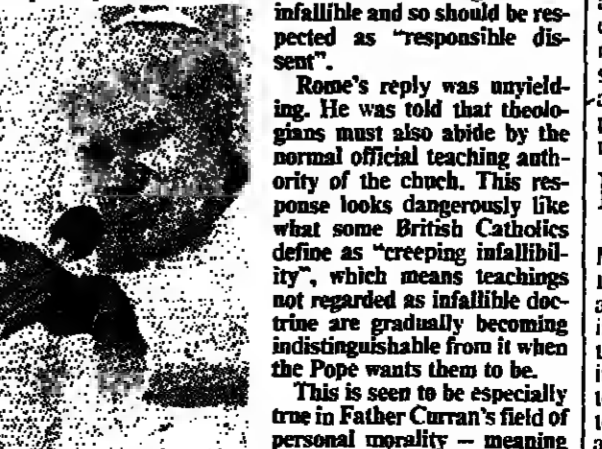
Poll raids

Bastia (Reuters) — Masked men attacked three Corsican by-election polling stations, setting off tear gas canisters and destroying voting machines and papers. Three separate groups of up to 10 men staged the raids several hours after voting began for two parliamentary seats in the region of Haute-Corse.

Doctors' guilt

Copenhagen (Reuters) — Medical doctors take part in torture in many countries and are especially vulnerable to involvement if they work for the military or in prisons, an international seminar on doctors, ethics and torture was told here. Doctors in prisons and the military run a high risk of human rights violations, Dr Jorgen Thomsen of Denmark said.

Where did they
steal tools of their



The Pope: Powerful statement on the Devil.

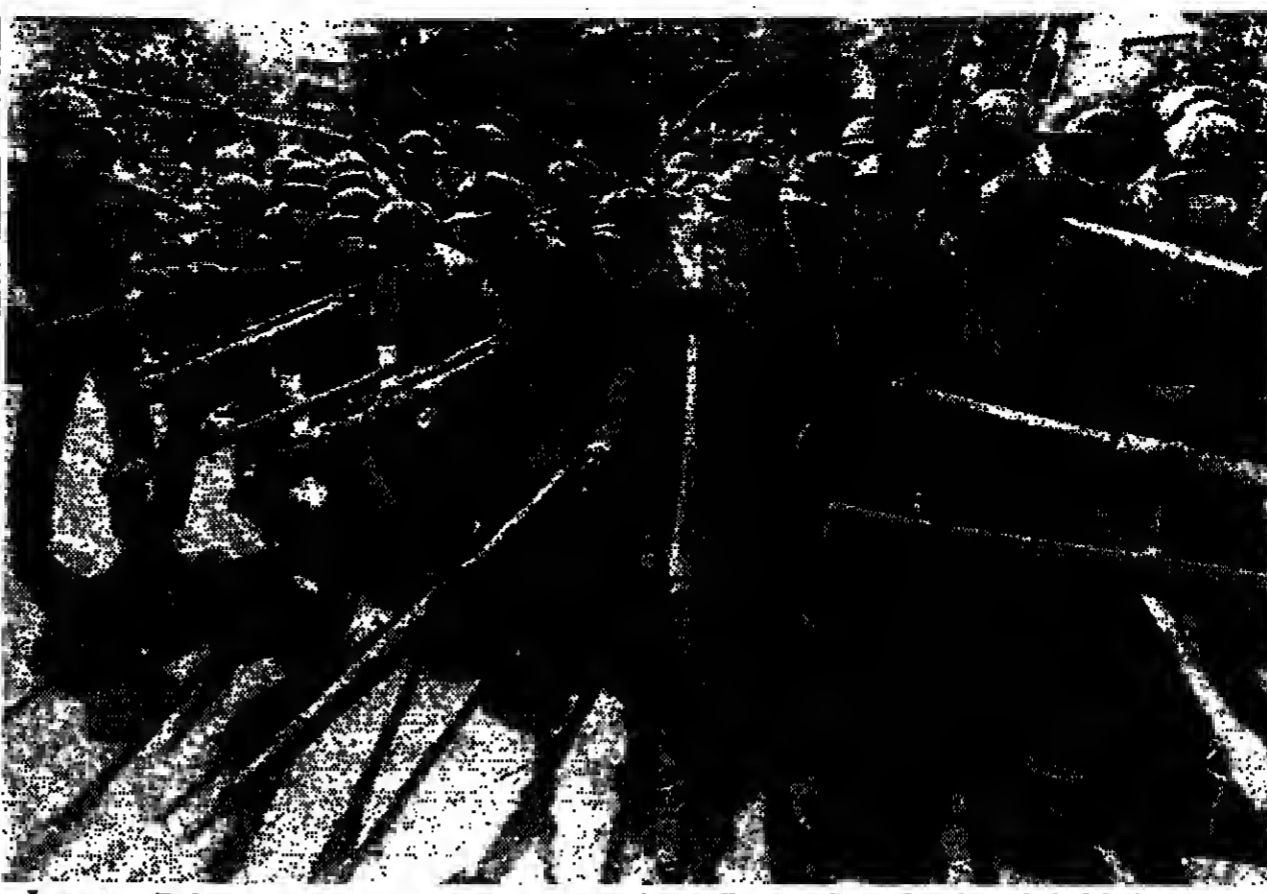
South Yemen fear that Ali Nasser may try to stage counter-coup

From Robert Fisk, Beirut

Seven months after President Ali Nasser Mohamed was overthrown in a bloodbath in which thousands of South Yemeni officials were massacred, the left-wing Government in Aden fears that the former leader may be about to return from exile in Ethiopia and stage a counter-coup. According to authoritative reports in Beirut a campaign of arrests and political executions has restarted in Aden as the government of President Ali Baker al-Atas demands the return of Ali Nasser and 47 of his supporters for "crimes against the country". The present leadership of the Yemeni Socialist Party — the only legal political party in South Yemen — is now so concerned about Ali Nasser's growing popularity in the country that only last week it tried to seize some of his supporters from an airliner flying from the North Yemeni capital, Sanaa, to Djibouti. The Djibouti authorities, who own the Boeing 720, cut air and sea links with South Yemen after two MiG jet fighters forced the plane to land in Aden, where armed men searched the aircraft but allowed one follower of Ali Nasser Mohamed — Hussein Kassem Ahmed — to fly on to Djibouti when the pilot refused to take off without him. The South Yemenis later claimed the aircraft had strayed 50 miles off course

over Yemen and was "asked to land at Aden" after its pilot refused to change direction. This explanation has not satisfied Djibouti but the incident was clearly a warning to Ali Nasser and the neighbouring states which are still supporting him, among them North Yemen, Ethiopia and Syria, with the Soviet Union a highly interested bystander. Moscow is still intent on healing the divisions between "the comrades in the Yemeni Socialist Party", an aspiration which has not been met with much favour in Aden. Ali-Atas and his colleagues know only too well that the return of Ali Nasser — by force or under the aegis of an amnesty — will inevitably lead to further killings. Ali Nasser has been in Damascus, praising the Soviet Union for its attempts at Yemeni reconciliation — despite the fact that *Investia* has been officially blaming him for last January's upheaval. In Aden, the Government suspects the Russians may be playing a double game to restore Ali Nasser. Why else, they are wondering, would Ali Nasser describe Moscow as "the best friend we have had"? Yemeni Ministers have also been speaking about the need for healing old wounds. The Saudis are trying to alleviate the situation in South Yemen by granting millions of dollars of credits for develop-

ment projects in the country following a visit by President al-Atas to Riyadh. At a meeting in Tripoli — held at the invitation of Colonel Gaddafi — al-Atas has been meeting with his North Yemeni opposite number, Ali Abdullah Saleh, but the talks, while they involved complex discussion on the eventual unity of the two Yemens, achieved little. While the former and present leadership of South Yemen — together with their respective friends — are therefore talking nobly of reconciliation, both sides realise that it is a fraud. In the fierce tribal rivalries that have been generated around the hot, volcanic mountains of Aden, it is extremely unwise to place one's confidence in talk of forgiveness as a South Yemeni proclamation made clear earlier this month. Ali-Atas' government, it said, had released 2,900 political prisoners and was inviting former supporters of Ali Nasser to return home from North Yemen under an amnesty. "But," the statement went on, "investigations and facts (sic) have shown that some Yemenns who fled the country... are not included in the general amnesty... they are urged to surrender to be tried for crimes against the country." It is an offer they are likely to refuse.



Japanese radicals taunt riot police with bamboo staves during a rally protesting against the arrival of the New Jersey.

Hostile welcome to Japan for warship

From David Watts Tokyo

With a flotilla of anti-nuclear protest ships in attendance, the American warship *New Jersey* put into Sasebo port yesterday morning. Under guidelines drawn up between Tokyo and Washington, the US is supposed to tell Japan if a vessel entering its ports is carrying nuclear weapons. If there is no such notification Tokyo assumes there are no nuclear weapons on board. This polite fiction was maintained once again yesterday when the *New Jersey* sailed into the superb natural harbour at Sasebo, in Nagasaki, on the southern island of Kyushu. The captain of the *New Jersey* told a welcoming ceremony rather enigmatically:

"We appreciate the sentiments of the Japanese people with regard to nuclear weapons. We do not discuss the weapons loads, conventional or nuclear, that our warships have." If its arrival was meant to signal to the Soviet Union the American strength in the Pacific, the Japanese could be forgiven if they did interpret yesterday's events as a three-pronged assault on their non-nuclear principles, because, as the *New Jersey* was berthing, three men in immaculate whites, American naval uniforms with acent connections were arriving at two other Japanese ports. At Kure on the Inland Sea — where the *New Jersey's* greatest rival, the *Yamato*, was built — the US frigate *Merrill* was pulling in and further up the

coast at Yokosuka, near Yokohama, two frigates and the nuclear-powered cruiser *Long Beach* were due to dock. According to reports from Tokyo on Sunday night, the vessels are the first of a considerable number of ships that will be assembled in the coming weeks for a big naval exercise off the east coast of the Soviet Union next month.



Trip to prove Government stability

Military placed on red alert as Aquino travels overseas

From Keith Dalton, Manila

President Aquino of the Philippines began a four-day visit yesterday to Indonesia and Singapore, her first official trip abroad, to forge closer political and economic ties and reassure them that her six-month-old Government is politically stable. "I am not afraid to leave because I know the people support me," Mrs Aquino told a 10,000-strong rally in her home province of Ilocos in the eve of her departure for Jakarta. In a pre-departure statement she said she was confident she was leaving the Government in "good and trusted hands". The 53-year-old President boarded the presidential jet just hours after the country's armed forces were placed on full alert and a special Marine battalion was deployed in Manila to contain any possible anti-Government demonstrations. Her departure from the suburban Villamor air base was preceded by full military honours: a brief military parade passed a reviewing stand where she and members of her Government and diplomatic corps were joined by Mr Juan Ponce Enrile, the Defence Minister, and General Fidel Ramos, the armed forces chief, who led the February revolt that toppled the 20-year-old Marcos regime. Both men dismissed rumours of a possible military *putsch* by entrenched Marcos supporters within the armed forces. A Defence Ministry spokesman said the placing of

all troops on "red alert" — the highest state of readiness — was routine and the order would be revoked as soon as Mrs Aquino returns on Wednesday. Military intelligence agents and a government report, however, have given warning of a possible attempt by Marcos loyalists to stage a revolt and reinstate the deposed President while Mrs Aquino is out of the country. A possible re-entry point, Laoag airport in Mr Marcos's northern home province of

Ilocos Norte, was closed last week to light aircraft. By beginning her official overseas visits by travelling to Indonesia and Singapore, Mrs Aquino is emphasizing the Philippines' continued commitment to the six-member Association of South East Asian Nations (Asean), whose other three members are Thailand, Malaysia and Brunei. Manila's relations with the 19-year-old alliance were strained during the Marcos regime. Through commonly perceived economic mismanagement — highlighted by corruption and plunder by Mr Marcos and his cronies — the Philippines became the economic laggard of the Asean alliance. **● Fugitive captain:** One of the 25 soldiers accused in the murder of Mr Benigno Aquino, the former opposition leader and husband of President Aquino, used a forged passport to leave the Philippines in April and is now believed to be in hiding in the US. An Air Force spokesman, Colonel Pablo Gonzales, admitted that the Air Force "erred" last week when it publicly denied media reports that one of the accused was missing. He said Captain Felipe Valerio, aged 35, left the Philippines through the "southern back door" of the Suluan archipelago near the east Malaysian state of Sabah.

Under Gandhi socialist dominance has been checked and smaller nations find more world influence

From Michael Hamlyn Delhi

The Non-Aligned Movement begins meeting in Harare tomorrow. In the first article in a two-part series, Michael Hamlyn examines India's chairmanship of the 101-nation organization over the past three years. It might not appear so from the tone of some of the communiqués that come out of meetings of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), but India's chairmanship of the organization during the past three years has had a decisive effect in turning it away from a slavish following of the socialist bloc line. "We have," said one Indian observer proudly, "saved the organization. We have enabled it to continue in being." It is true that under the enthusiastic chairmanship of the Cuba of President Fidel Castro, NAM became highly polarized. President Castro's belief was that the communists were the natural allies of the non-aligned, and serious tensions were building in the movement between the Cubans and such other formally non-aligned countries as North Korea on one hand and the more westward-looking countries, led in the main by Mr Lee Kwan Yew of Singapore. Had the polarization continued, the organization could very well have disintegrated, with such nations as Saudi Arabia, Morocco or Malaysia leading the way. It was not India's turn to take the chair. Iraq was next in line, but the war with Iran made it impossible for the organization to accept Baghdad as its capital for the next three years, and India was persuaded to step in instead. Mrs Indira Gandhi was perhaps the perfect NAM chairman. She headed the most populous country in the movement, and one that was unchallengeably democratic. India is the principal power in

the region, and a considerable power on any world scale. Mrs Gandhi herself was respected and admired for her formidable personality and political skills. India, though close to the Soviet Union in many foreign policy matters, They cite the Afghan and Cambodian conflicts as instances of the way directions towards a solution have been indicated by the movement. "We have," said an Indian diplomat in Delhi, "restored a sense of unity of purpose." If this is true it is only just so. Even under India's leadership the movement has not been able to indicate a direction in which the Iran-Iraq war may be solved. Other prominent examples of India's provision of new direction for the movement are to be seen in its concentration on disarmament — particularly nuclear disarmament — and on the global economy. Since Mrs Gandhi's death, her son has benefited from India's chairmanship, since it gave him an instant platform from which to be launched on the world stage. While some initiatives, notably the economic one, appear to have languished under his leadership, others have flourished. On nuclear disarmament he has just returned from another six-nation summit, which called for an end to the nuclear arms race. Mr Gandhi's main area of interest has been in southern Africa, and meetings of the NAM Co-ordinating Bureau on Namibia, have enabled the Third World nations to express a concerted view of events in the area. At the same time Mr Gandhi has appeared to be leading the Commonwealth attack on South Africa and indeed on Mrs Thatcher, for her reluctance to impose sanctions. In doing so he has brought authority and status to the Non-Aligned point of view, and hands over the movement to the Zimbabwean Prime Minister in a healthy state, ready for any new contention. Tomorrow: The way ahead

Militants urge halt to Tamil talks

From Michael Hamlyn Delhi

Something of a setback for the struggling peace process in Sri Lanka came yesterday as the leader of one of the principal Tamil militant groups urged moderate politicians to call off talks with the Government. Mr Uma Maheshwaran, leader of the People's Liberation Organization for Tamil Eelam (PLOT), who returned to Madras yesterday after talks with the Indian Government in Delhi, said the Tamil United Liberation Front, the political party which represented Tamil districts in the island parliament, should break off talks in Sri Lanka and return to Madras for talks with militant groups first. Mr Maheshwaran's group has so far not taken much part in the armed struggle in Sri Lanka, because of a pronounced distaste for what they have derided as "hit-and-run" tactics. "We have also started hitting the enemy at random after a gap of 18 months," Mr Maheshwaran said, "giving our stand against hit-and-run." The militant leader, whose organization has been backed by that wing of the Palestine Liberation Organization led by Mr George Habash, said the proposals offered by the Sri Lanka Government "could not even be the starting point" for negotiations. "The process initiated by Mr Jayewardene is merely to end pressure from the international community," he said. The Indian Government is anxious to put all the pressure it can behind the present peace process. "We want to see these talks make progress," an Indian Government spokesman said last night. Commenting on Mr Maheshwaran's remarks, the spokesman said: "We hope violence is not being resorted to." A spokesman for the Indian Foreign Ministry said the report in the Sri Lankan newspaper, the *Sunday Observer*, suggesting that talks will be held in Delhi between the extremists and the Colombo Government is simply "a bit of kite-flying".

Stanley to discuss Gurkhas

By Rodney Cowton

Mr John Stanley, Minister of State for the Armed Forces, flies to Hong Kong tomorrow to talk to senior Army commanders about the dismissal of 108 Gurkhas. Mr Stanley's visit seems likely to be dominated by the controversy which arose following the refusal of the Gurkhas to co-operate in an inquiry into a fracas in Hawaii, in which two officers were injured. The Gurkhas still have the right to appeal against their discharge and there is no reason to think Mr Stanley's visit will lead to a change in the Army's decision. An Army source dismissed suggestions yesterday that there was any dispute between it and ministers over the issue, or that the decision to discharge the Gurkhas had been hoisted on the Army by Mr Stanley. One source said the decision to discharge the men had been taken by ministers in accordance with a recommendation by the Army. "We recommended exactly what ministers decided to do." The decision had been taken after exhaustive consideration of alternative courses of action, and in full awareness that it would be likely to arouse public controversy. The Army would have preferred to have brought the cases before a court martial, but the Gurkhas' refusal to co-operate made it impossible.

Two on kidnap charge

Bangkok (Reuters) — Thai police said yesterday they had arrested and charged two West Germans with kidnapping a British shipping company executive and holding him for a \$750,000 (£500,000) ransom.

Police raided a house on Saturday to free Mr Tim Milner, aged 50, an executive with a Hong Kong shipping firm, who had been held by Michael Roenisch Hans, aged 34, and Wolfgang Gogepz, aged 27, for more than a week. Police charged the two with illegal detention, depriving the freedom of another and causing serious injury. Mr Milner, who suffered broken ribs and appeared to have been assaulted, was found staggering and drowsy. He said he was abducted on August 15. Police seized handcuffs, tranquillisers and faked Thai and German immigration seals. At the exchange in Jampath, the Champs Elysees of Delhi, brandishing a Czech-made automatic pistol and accompanied by several armed henchmen — two bodyguards and his son-in-law. He stormed into the building's restricted area and roundly (and probably justifiably) abused all and sundry. "It should not be a restricted area," he said. "It should be thrown open to the citizens so that they can see what sort of mess the telephone system is." He went too far, of course. He passed one of the women on the check and told her she was

at the wall in frustration and resentment. Many have felt like taking a pistol down to the exchange and sorting them out there, but only Mr Sethi has done it. Infuriated beyond measure by the failure of the exchange to connect him to a Bombay number, despite his giving the call a "lightning" priority, and pulling his rank as an ex-Cabinet Minister, Mr Sethi arrived at the exchange in Jampath, the Champs Elysees of Delhi, brandishing a Czech-made automatic pistol and accompanied by several armed henchmen — two bodyguards and his son-in-law. He stormed into the building's restricted area and roundly (and probably justifiably) abused all and sundry. "It should not be a restricted area," he said. "It should be thrown open to the citizens so that they can see what sort of mess the telephone system is." He went too far, of course. He passed one of the women on the check and told her she was

Army mans Delhi telephones

From Michael Hamlyn Delhi

Troops ringed the central telephone exchange in Delhi at the weekend and the Indian Corps of Signals manned the switchboards, abandoned by striking workers — all because of a protest by an infuriated telephone subscriber. Anyone who has dealt with the women of the central exchange will have a sneaking sympathy for Mr P C Sethi, recently a senior Cabinet Minister, but now an increasingly eccentric has-been. Communications are one of the most frustrating aspects of living and working in India. Telephones often break down, maintenance standards are uniformly appalling, equipment is out-dated, overloaded and worn out. The attitude of the exchange staff does not help. It is often off-hand, uncomprehending and malicious. Horror stories abound, and many subscribers have been driven to throw the telephone

the kind of girl who would sleep with anyone for five rupees. Later he described the women as "fat lazy ladies, every single one of them". Three thousand women at the exchange went on strike, cutting the capital off from the rest of the country and the world. They demanded Mr Sethi be arrested; they demanded greater security; they wanted the "defeminization" of the night shifts. They took the opportunity to raise the question of 1,000 casual workers who have been hired on a daily rate for the past four years. They rejected the advice of their unions, because of the union affiliation with various political parties — including Mr Sethi's Congress party. They also sabotaged the switches as they left work, and many of them sat in to prevent the work being done by others. Mr Sethi, aged 65, has been in government virtually continuously since 1962. He was Chief Minister of his home

Minister is sacked for carousing

From Hassan Akhtar Islamabad

A Minister of the North-West Frontier province government was sacked on Saturday by Mr Arbab Mohammad Jahangir Khan, the Chief Minister, for alleged public merry-making on Pakistan's Independence Day (August 14) while parts of the country were rocked by anti-government riots and demonstrations. The resignation of Mr Ayub Taseeli, communications and Works Minister, was demanded by the Chief Minister, who later met General Zia ul-Haq, Pakistan's President, well-known as a highly religious and puritanical man, when he arrived at Islamabad airport from a visit to Saudi Arabia. Peshawar-based newspaper reporters said Mr Taseeli was allegedly drunk and was in a group which created a stir in a hill resort, dancing, firing shots.

Private graft swamps squad

From David Bonavia Hong Kong

Hong Kong's controversial Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) has been swamped with complaints about graft in private business, hampering its ability to deal with more serious crimes. Informed sources say the anti-graft body — set up in 1974 — would like to see more such complaints handled by the Royal Hong Kong police fraud squad, some of whose functions were taken over by the ICAC because of corruption in the police. In recent months the low-profile swindles in the horse-racing world which is Hong Kong's chief form of legal gambling, it is currently investigating scandals involving sub-standard public housing, some of which is literally falling to pieces. The 1,000-strong commission's annual budget is not published, but is thought to be in excess of £10 million. Its senior ranks are mostly recruited from police forces in the United Kingdom. However, its latest potential officer, Mr Alan Dann of the Kent county police, has so far been unable to take up his duties because his force is under investigation for alleged inflation of crime detection figures. Last year the commission successfully prosecuted 160 cases of corruption, of which the largest group — 36 cases — were in the police. Nonetheless, police corruption is believed to have declined due to the ICAC. There were 124 cases in the private sector in 1985, involving such things as "kick-backs" and bribes.

Sir Murray MacLehose (now Baron MacLehose), the former Governor of Hong Kong, set up the ICAC to circumvent the ineffectual investigation of corruption by the police themselves. In 1977 some policemen became so incensed at the more vigorous investigation of their activities by the new body that they physically attacked its premises. To restore order the Governor had to promise amnesty for the majority of corrupt policemen. Corruption was also widespread in the fire service and civil service. The commission has been frequently criticized for its secretive behaviour and its powers of arrest and interrogation, which some people consider excessive. However, it has been effective in bringing it to the public's attention that corruption is not a monopoly of Chinese policemen and officials, but has been widely practised by British-born officers too. The ICAC's great success this year has been the smashing of the so-called "Shanghai" syndicate at the Royal Hong Kong Jockey Club, a pillar of modern sporting activity.

Ban on Dhaka rallies to stop poll violence

From Ahmed Fazi, Dhaka

Authorities imposed a 48-hour ban on rallies and demonstrations in the Bangladesh capital yesterday in a bid to avert violence during tomorrow's parliamentary elections. A police official said 860 people were arrested at the weekend to keep "trouble-makers" out of action during the election, in which the official Jatiyo party and the opposition Awami League will be contesting a key Dhaka constituency. In the past three days police have detained more than 1,200 people in the capital in a major security drive. Opposition sources said:

Sheikh Hasina Wazed, the Awami League chief, accused General Ershad, the country's President, of using police to harass her supporters. She has asked that soldiers be withdrawn from her hometown of Gopalganj, in the country's south, where another two constituencies are going to the polls. About 50 people were wounded at the weekend during a gun battle. A total of eight constituencies are going to the polls and political circles say the Government is expected to win at least six seats, improving its majority of 201 seats in the 330-member Parliament.

Private grab
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PROPOSAL FOR CITY MARKET SHOPPING ARCADE

(This document covers the outline proposal of Roberts & Nelson Ltd., for the design of the City Market Shopping Arcade. Detailed plans and costings can be found in Appendix A to this report.)

Roberts and Nelson
46a High Street,
London SW18 1AP
Telephone:
01 - 561 3558

SITE

The proposed site for the new Arcade is shown on the map at the right. Although our brief allowed us to choose from several sites within a square mile of James Square, a site on the north east corner of the square was chosen. This is for several reasons: one is that no buildings are currently located there, thus it would not be necessary to buy up and demolish properties.

Furthermore, the site is within easy distance of Underground, Bus and Rail services. There are also many office blocks in the vicinity, plus high-density housing. Detailed figures of local resident and office populations will be found in Appendix B.

YEAR 1 CUSTOMERS

The total number of customers to visit the Arcade during Year 1 has been estimated as being on the close order of a million. And as can be seen from the chart, below, some 50% of these will be between 25 and 44 years of age.

This is partly due to the population make-up of the borough in which the Arcade will be sited. It will also be affected by the type of store to be found in the Arcade, with its heavy emphasis on up-market Fashion retailers, supermarkets and DIY stores.

The next-largest segment of customers falls into the 16-24 age group, who will be attracted by the bran-

RENTAL INCOME

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Projected Rental income for years 1-5 £m

Projected customers in Year 1, by age group

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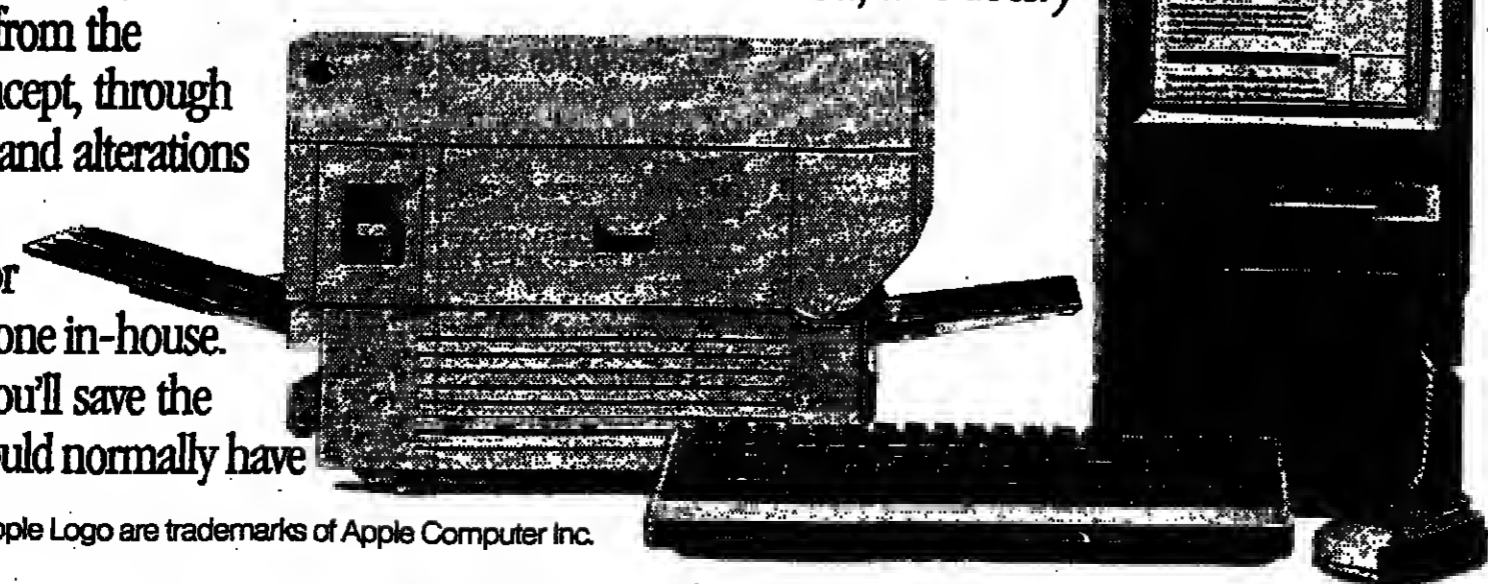
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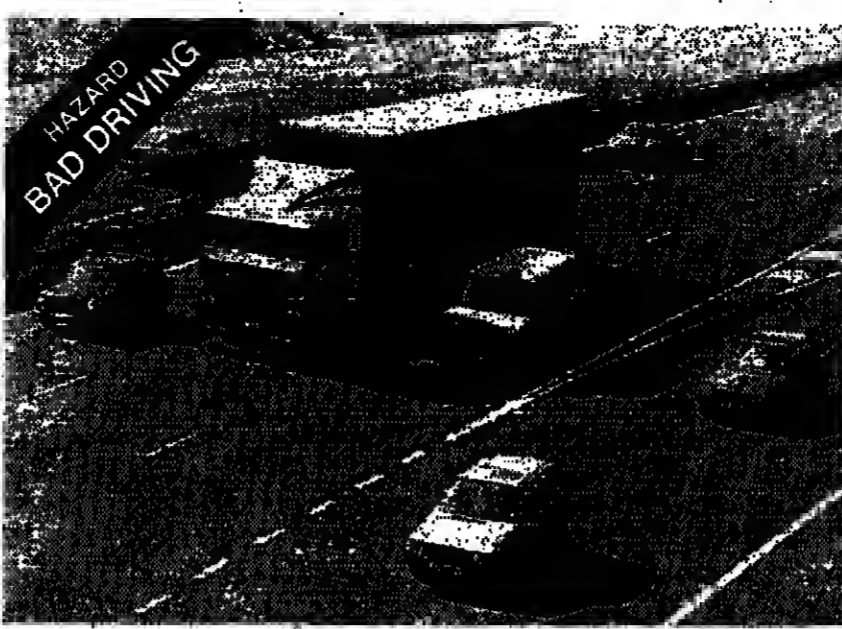
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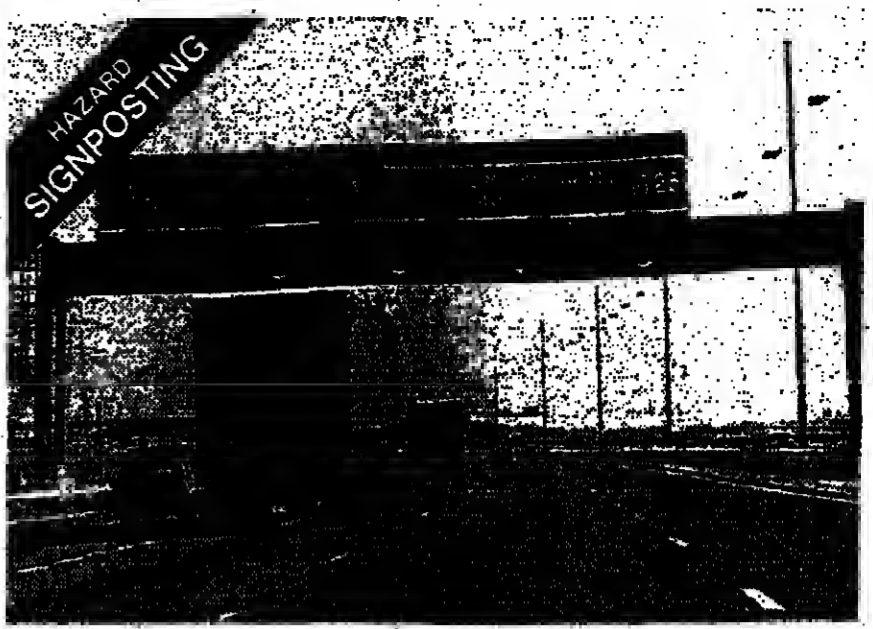
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Ring that would not fit

The M25 London orbital motorway, already so congested that parts of it are being widened, encircles nearly one-eighth of the UK population. Bryan Appleyard patrols a road that is also a social phenomenon

There was a time when London was to be turned into a dashboard. Concentric rings of three motorways would be cut by radial routes aimed at the bull's-eye of the West End and the City. But, like so many other 1960s dreams, it turned out to be over-ambitious.

Victorian and Edwardian inner-city areas were already being rapidly colonized by the articulate middle classes; the rape of these areas by stilted flyovers and murky underpasses was too much to stomach.

So in 1975 John Gilbert, then Minister of Transport, replaced the dashboard with a single giant coral. One-eighth of Britain's population would be penned inside and the perimeter fence would be the longest city ring road in the world.

With a radius varying between 12 and 18 miles it would cut through the pastures of Surrey and Kent, plunge under the Thames at Dartford, swerve northwards through Essex, swing west through Hertfordshire and Buckinghamshire, recross the river near Staines and link with the M3 near Virginia Water.

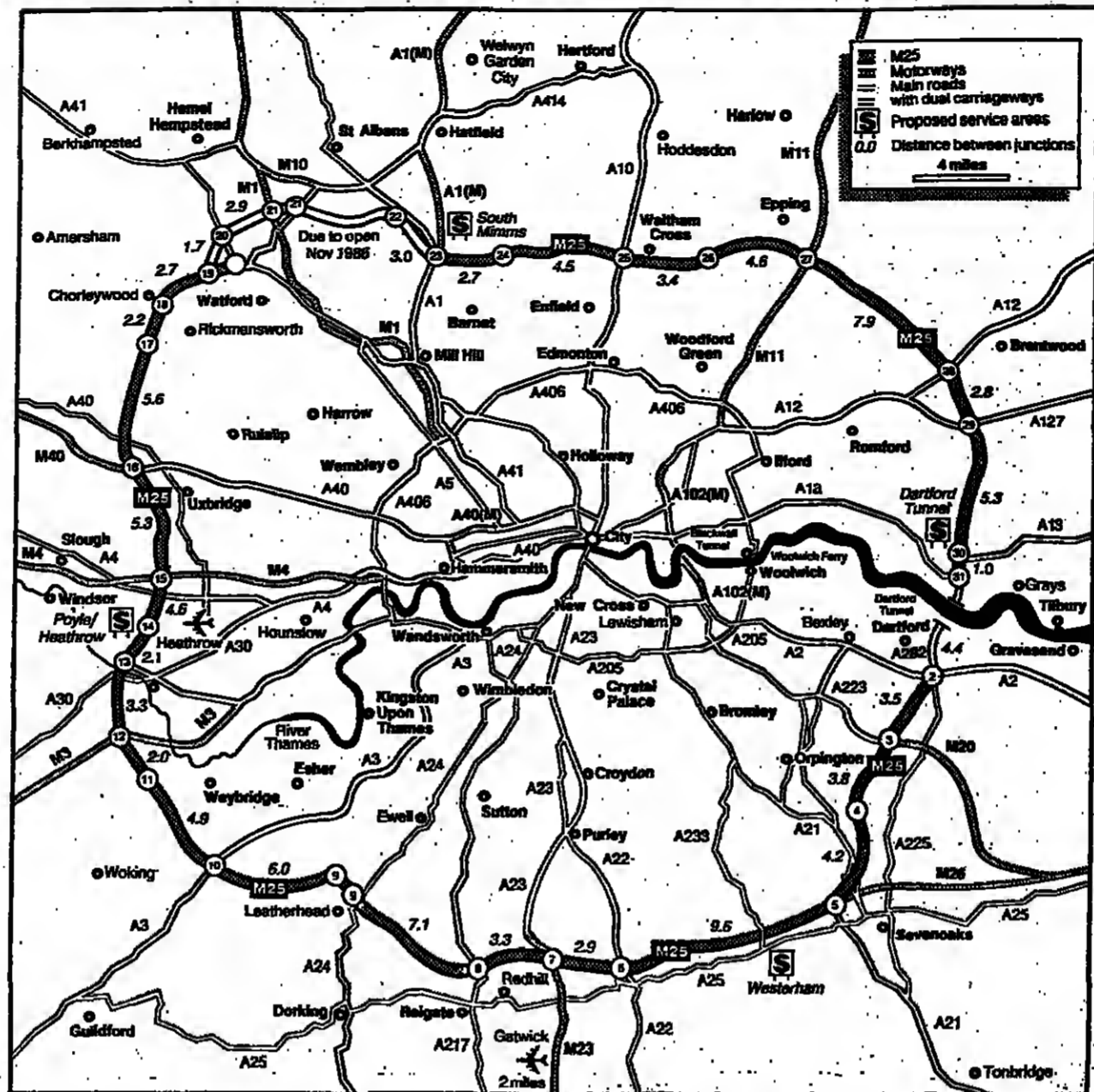
As a piece of civil engineering the M25 was spectacular. As social engineering it was a leap into the unknown. But

Bert Morris, highways manager of the Automobile Association, with whom I drove round the Big Ring, is not a man given to wild surmise. As we headed along the M3 for the traffic jam where we were to join the M25, he said: "At the AA we have identified three problems: lack of capacity, bad driving and poor direction signing."

At the swirling junction, it turns out to be a quiet morning which means that the traffic is actually moving. From here you can stay on the M3 as far as Sunbury or take the M25 clockwise or anti-clockwise. We opt for the latter and find ourselves in the middle of the section which the Ministry of Transport has decided to widen to four lanes.

This is not necessarily the area with the worst capacity problems, it's simply the easiest bit to widen. An unusually large central reservation was left to allow for this.

The design capacity for a three-lane motorway with good "flowing alignment" (which means it is reasonably straight) is between 75,000 and 80,000 vehicles a day. Around here the M25 has been taking 115,000. At Chertsey the widening will help, but there are 300 bridges crossing the Big Ring and most of those would have to be virtually



rebuilt if the whole road were widened.

So what went wrong? Why is the road handling traffic loads which should not have happened until well into the 1990s?

Traffic nationwide has been growing at 3 to 4 per cent annually. In the south-east, with its much higher economic growth rate, the increase has been correspondingly higher.

But nobody could have foreseen the extent to which the road would have to serve both as a motorway and as a local route. On the one hand there are lorries and salesmen on their normal business; using the road to bypass

London altogether, to get from one outer suburb to another or just to drive to a more favourable exit for moving into London.

On the other hand, suburban life has been transformed by the ability of local inhabitants to use the road for shorter trips. Thousands of cars now stay on for just one or two exits. And this is where Bert Morris's other problems of bad driving and inadequate signing come in.

The M25 has brought people who normally only drive on the A and B roads into the motorway system. They are unused to the rituals of exit ramps and lane discipline (not

to mention cowboys in black BMWs trying to do 100mph). This leads to daily "shunts" the AA and police euphemism for crashes — and frequent and dangerous frustration among the professionals.

The problem with signs arose because the ministry lays down strict guidelines aimed at preventing distracting clutter for all motorway signs. These rules not only cover the appearance of individual signs, but also specify which places can be indicated.

Many places are regarded as too specialized, too commercial or too small, but Morris and his colleagues have been trying to convince the ministry that the local functions of

the M25 demand more signs, to more places.

We pass the junction with the M23 which leads south to Gatwick Airport, marked by five flat up bridges crisscrossing an apparently random fashion, and go on into Kent. Here the landscape becomes decidedly better as the tanks on either side of the road drop away.

The junction with the M26 is no fun at all. Here the M25 takes a 90-degree turn northwards and a few minutes of inattention could have you heading east through Wrotham and down to Maidstone.

But after that the road becomes decidedly pretty,

with some elegant tapering bridges. We are now clipping the edge of the Darent Valley. There's Westgate, Shoreham and Eynesford — Samuel Palmer country which even the most hardened free-market Tory would think twice about despoiling. In the event Shoreham needs on, undisturbed, albeit shorn by implication of some of its mystery.

Next, it's down to the apocalyptic landscape of the Thames Estuary. Plumes of smoke rise from factories along the shoreline and after crossing the shore line and after crossing the A2 we find the signs have turned from blue to green — we are no longer on a motorway. These are the Dartford Tunnel approaches.

The road is being widened here to dispose of the three-lane-into-two bottleneck, but the tunnel itself, with its strange, pock-marked, primeval walls, remains. On the far side, traffic heading south is backed up for miles. The ministry is considering an additional bridge or tunnel crossing to be built in the early 1990s.

Then there are the flat black plains of Essex until we cross the M25 at Theydon Bois and arrive at Epping Forest, the scene of the bitterest environmental battles over the M25. Here Uphire — "the last Epping Forest village" — with its bluebell wood is said to have died.

But in fact, the speed at which the motorway has been completed indicates that such battles were few and usually easily won. Part of this must lie with the government tactic of cutting the road up into 26 contract sections, each with its own programme and inquiry.

But it also must have been because the opposition was always in two minds. For all but those living in the immediate vicinity, the benefits of the road must have outweighed its disadvantages. And, besides, pruning the original Sixties madman down to just one motorway must be seen as some kind of victory.

At Waltham Abbey we stop for coffee. Gloomy signs had repeatedly announced "No services on M25", so a detour was necessary. Plans for services have lagged behind on this motorway because it was thought most drivers would

not stay on for long enough to make it worthwhile. Now two are going ahead and two more are planned.

After crossing the M1, we reach the uncompleted section between South Mimms and Hunton Bridge. This is due to open in the autumn, but for the moment it requires a complex zigzag which provides tantalizing glimpses of St Albans to the distance.

Finally comes the home run down the western side, past Heathrow where the aircraft seem to be diving straight for your car and on to the M3 junction. The trip took us two hours four minutes of deeply legal A4 driving.

Once the north-western gap is closed the whole 117-mile circuit should be drivable, traffic allowing, in well under two hours. The target for the expected illegal racers will presumably be nearer one hour. In 1978 another Times journalist did the same journey using what roads there were. It took him six and a quarter hours and he travelled 165 miles.

But all the geography, the driving and the engineering are only half the story of the M25. The other half is only just beginning to become apparent. This is its social engineering function. For not only has it cut through the hitherto mysterious and exciting Kent and Surrey woodlands, it has also provided a dangerous and unpredictable lure of wealth away from the centre of London.

Along its length domestic property prices have soared, as has the cost of commercial land. Out-of-town shops are beginning to appear — hypermarkets and DIY superstores which have shoppers' the trouble of fighting with suburban centres of even, the West End.

The obvious possibility is a draining of wealth from the inner city to car-infested suburbs. In addition it will lead to a steady linking of the centres of population and commerce. The M25 is still too new to be sure of how far this process will go. But, if only because of the staggering volume of traffic it has attracted, it is clear that life in the south-east will never be the same again. Yet it still leaves us with under 2,000 miles of motorway compared to almost 4,000 miles in France and West Germany's 5,000.

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How to turn on the TV schedulers

What does a BBC television director do when he learns that a sex discussion programme, due to be broadcast at a critical weekend viewing time, contains an explicit sex scene that happens to involve the presenter of a popular children's show?

How does his adversary in a leading ITV company rearrange his schedules, when a new ruling by the Independent Broadcasting Authority obliges him to increase his quota of productions by independent producers?

The answers to these, and other hypothetical but equally intriguing dilemmas, were to be found in the Assembly Rooms, Edinburgh, at the weekend, when delegates to the city's International Television Festival witnessed a simulated battle in the ratings war between the networks.

The BBC wheeled out its front-line commander for the skirmish in the form of Mr Michael Grade, director of television programmes. "Taking the field for ITV was his former colleague, and successor as director of programmes at London Weekend Television, Mr John Birt.

Each controller had been given a list of 30 programmes, and three days in which to compile schedules for the highly competitive Friday and Saturday viewing periods. Prior consultation between them was prohibited.

In addition, their reactions were tested by "joker" cards played during the contest — such as the sex issue, unexpected legal problems and the sudden loss of an option on a popular quiz programme.

Mr Alistair Hetherington, a former controller of BBC Scotland and member of the Peacock Committee on Broadcasting, and Mr Colin Clark, a time buyer for an advertising agency, acted as judges.

When two television programmers held a mock ratings battle in Edinburgh, some tricks of the trade got a public airing

Diana Goli



RATINGS RACE

The "game" was billed as an attempt to illustrate the mysterious and fiendishly complicated rules of television scheduling. Mr Hetherington asserted in introductory remarks that it was a great art, which very few people had mastered.

In the event, the two directors raised more laughs than eyebrows from an audience fully conversant with the cut and thrust of media rivalry. Nevertheless, their instinctive reactions to emergencies offered a rare insight into their views on topical issues and the merit of individual programmes.

When Birt's Friday evening schedule was unveiled, it was apparent he had elected for a

quick kill by following Dallas at 8pm with the popular LWT adventure series *Demsey and Makepeace* at 9pm.

Grade conceded that the timing of "Dingbat and Makedish" presented him with a major problem. The key to his Friday night schedule was a new drama series which he had planned to screen at 9.30pm — half an hour after most viewers would have tuned into the rival ITV programme.

The BBC hit back with a light fusillade of *Omnibus*, followed by a major counter-attack with *L.A. Law*, a new American series from the writer and executive producer of *Hill Street Blues*.

The Saturday night battle raged around the respective flagships of *Dynasty* on BBC1 at 7.25pm and *A Fine Romance* on ITV at 8.15pm. Grade, confidently, predicted he would win the day, with late-evening reinforcements — led by Jasper Carrott and by the fearsome Rambo in *First Blood*.

He expected nothing less than unconditional surrender from Birt's competing collection of stand-up comedians *Connolly and Stephenson* and *L.A. Law* (already scooped by the Beeb on Friday).

Birt said he had eschewed *American Gigolo* because some sex scenes in the film had posed problems for mid-evening viewing. Nor did he consider the weekend to be an appropriate time to screen an omnibus edition of *Coronation Street*.

In practise, the BBC can usually gain a sneak preview of TTV schedules, because of the commercial network's need to disclose them in advance to advertisers.

Hence Grade was given an opportunity to adjust his programming — and promptly took full advantage by screening popular items just a few

moments before those of the rival channels.

His initial response to the sex poser was: "Is it billed in Radio Times? So we can't shift it on to BBC2." Eventually, he decided the scene would have to be cut.

For those of us unfamiliar with the term "hammocking", the contestants explained it was a way of supporting a relatively weak programme by slotting it between two highly popular items. Both said they used the technique, particu-

larly for introducing new drama series.

"The real job is about commissioning, acquiring the right programmes," said Mr Grade. "Scheduling is like producing the layout of a newspaper, presenting good stories for correspondents for the maximum effect."

For the record, the judges professed admiration for his skill in coping with emergencies, and awarded the BBC victory "by a narrow margin".

Gavin Bell

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4	Primly (7)	12	Mollycoddle (3,5)	19	Eighteenth century (10)
8	Exists (5)	14	Root (7)	25	Handaxe (8)
9	Ring-shaped part (7)	15	Weighting machine (16)	29	Slightly open (14)
10	Can be carried (8)	17	Solid square (4)	30	August Bank Holiday (10)
11	Influence (4)	18	Little man (8)	31	Authoritative (10)
13	Crowding up time (11)	21	Trismys (7)	32	Authoritative (10)
16	Volcano shaft (4)	22	Russian money (5)	33	Authoritative (10)
6	Team snail (7)	23	Administrative (5,2)	34	Authoritative (10)
24	New York immigration island (5)	24	Administrative (5,2)	35	Authoritative (10)

ACROSS: 1 Load (5); 4 Primly (7); 8 Exists (5); 9 Ring-shaped part (7); 10 Can be carried (8); 11 Influence (4); 13 Crowding up time (11); 17 Solid square (4); 18 Little man (8); 21 Trismys (7); 22 Russian money (5); 23 Administrative (5,2); 24 New York immigration island (5); 25 Handaxe (8); 29 Slightly open (14); 30 August Bank Holiday (10); 31 Authoritative (10); 32 Authoritative (10); 33 Authoritative (10); 34 Authoritative (10); 35 Authoritative (10).

DOWN: 1 Isometric ruler (16); 2 Wide stream (5); 3 Handaxe (8); 4 Evolutionary theories (7,6); 5 Volcano shaft (4); 6 Team snail (7); 7 Snuggle up (10); 12 Mollycoddle (3,5); 14 Root (7); 15 Weighting machine (16); 16 Except (6); 19 Eighteenth century (10); 25 Handaxe (8); 29 Slightly open (14); 30 August Bank Holiday (10); 31 Authoritative (10); 32 Authoritative (10); 33 Authoritative (10); 34 Authoritative (10); 35 Authoritative (10).

So what makes Suzy special?

The disappearance of Susannah Lamplugh has given rise to national concern, fears for the safety of working women and some quiet male gloating

Four weeks ago today Susannah Lamplugh vanished. For her family and close friends, nothing will erase the anxious agony of the past month: it is shared by hundreds of families in this country every year. Sometimes a vanished person comes back unharmed, too often, the story ends with a body and a manhunt. What is different about the story of Suzy is the way that the media has embraced it, knowing instinctively that this particular disappearance is, to put it crudely, "box-office".

However the family suffers by the intrusion, it has its uses. Dozens of other parents of missing young women would have given their eye-teeth for the nationwide publicity and the reiterated appeals for people to come forward with information. Suzy's movements on July 28 have become far better known than they would have been if she had simply remained a paragraph in the local "paper". "Claret girl missing" or "Barney family's anxiety" are not the sort of headline always taken up by the national papers, as the Salvation Army's famous Missing Persons bureau knows from its vast backlog of files.

The police appear to press some cases onto the media with more insistence than they do others, but often — after this many weeks — they are doing their own poster campaigns, unaided by the fickle media.

Here is a statistic: a fortnight ago, a check revealed that there are currently 492 missing females and 544 males — on the Central Index, kept by the Metropolitan Police. Some of them may be as much at risk as Miss Lamplugh. But we do not see their faces, day after day, in the tabloids. Normally, only missing children attract this sort of relentless publicity. So why? What is so special about Suzy Lamplugh?

The more I consider the question the less I like the answers. Miss Lamplugh is pretty, that, of course, helps. An off-the-record police officer admitted that it is harder to get press assistance in tracing women who "look like the back of a bus". Secondly, there is a mystery man in the equation



Private tragedy, public service, media event: as the police appeal for assistance, the Press has a field day — and Susannah Lamplugh (right) becomes a national talking point

whose name is so absurd it has become sinister: Mr Kipper.

But above all, there is the fact that she is a career girl, an estate agent. On the day after her disappearance, the *Daily Mail* pointed out that her apparent fate would strike a chill into all young career-women whose work takes them out alone to meet strange men. A few days later, a female columnist riposted that this attitude was bound to lead to men being appointed in preference to women, because they are less vulnerable, and therefore less trouble.

Young and youngish working women, everywhere, felt a *frisson* of alarm: I remembered that the week before Suzy vanished I was alone with a totally strange man, an entrepreneur, in an upstairs flat in Holland Park. Nobody knew where I was: I had come to interview him, having discovered his firm's existence on my own, without witnesses, and I had vaguely assumed that the address was an office, rather than a flat.

But, finding myself alone with this stranger, was I to scream and run? Or hurry downstairs muttering excuses and abandoning the

interview? Or should I, a grown woman, travel round with a minder? I could, I suppose, have asked to telephone someone, and murmured the address while the embarrassed chap looked on but, of course, in the end I just did the job and left.

Estate agents, social workers,

Both girls have been adopted as players in a real-life soap opera

insurance assessors, police women, reporters, countless women today have jobs which occasionally place them alone with strange men. Rarely do we even think it odd that a mere 50 years after the demise of the chaperone — the Mitford sisters remember never being allowed to be alone with a young man — a 20-year-old girl might earn her living doing it. Working-class women, of course, always have: maids, have been chased round flats by dirty old bachelors for years.

But the nicely bred girl who traipses around alone and talks to strangers as part of her job is a new-

ish, intriguing phenomenon. An estate agent is by definition a "yuppie"; her job is smart and money-making, her lifestyle, as presumed by on-lookers, is what marketing men like to call "aspirational".

Some of the same factors may have applied in the case of poor Sarah Lambert, who disappeared on a "lost weekend" and who, on her return had to give a Press conference to explain that "I was not as stupid as I have been made out."

Sarah, during her brief absence, attracted as much ballyhoo as Susannah Lamplugh; her adventure vied with the newer revelations that Lamplugh was seen, on the day she vanished, in another "aspirational" cliché situation — walking off to lunch with a mysterious man and a bottle of be-ribboned champagne.

The point is that both these girls have been eagerly adopted, as characters in a real-life soap opera. The reporting no longer has much to do with the real fear and pain of Suzy Lamplugh's real friends: she has become a symbol of a social group. And the nasty bit is that,

from the tone of much of the reporting and casual talk on commuter trains, not far beneath the surface of concern lies a sort of concealed gloating.

There is a dark, envious, sexist strand of thought which is rather pleased that all these smart girls, these brittle business-like New

Women, have been put back to their place as objects of sexual vulnerability.

"This is it", the chaps are saying (and, I sadly suspect, some of their wives too). "They may reckon they can do the jobs as well as a man can. But when it comes down to it, who's the stronger?"

British society is growing increasingly jungle; and this is just one more law of the jungle being reasserted. Miss Jones may get the Regional Sales Manager's job, but it wouldn't do her much good down a dark alley, how how. Nasty? Oh, yes, very.



Private tragedy, public service, media event: as the police appeal for assistance, the Press has a field day — and Susannah Lamplugh (right) becomes a national talking point

So I and a million other women, will carry on regardless. More than half of my working life as a radio reporter was spent dashing to catch people for interviews, by day and night. I suspect that the duty editor often didn't know where I was.

We shall be keeping our fears to ourselves. I have sat alone at dusk beside the Mississippi, and had a tough young man sit down by me. As it happened he meant no harm.

As it happened he meant no harm. As it happened he meant no harm. As it happened he meant no harm. As it happened he meant no harm.

As it happened he meant no harm. As it happened he meant no harm. As it happened he meant no harm. As it happened he meant no harm.

Libby Purves

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Clear case of cruelty to cleaners

TALKBACK

From Mrs Joan Chapman, Aberdour Road, Goodmayes, Essex.

As a recently retired domestic, may I make a few observations as to why there is a shortage of women prepared to clean other women's houses (August 18)?

I remember leaving one house where I had worked flat out for six hours and seeing a car sticker which said: "Give Blood." I thought: "I do!"

Why is it that women who have lived for years with the tops of their wardrobes and doors covered in dust find that they cannot bear it a minute longer once they acquire a domestic?

On my first day I was told to wash down the kitchen walls, which meant standing on a high ladder trying to balance a bucket of water on top. On another occasion, when I presented myself to an employer I was told I would be needed only every six weeks or so in spring-clean the house. This involved washing every bit of paintwork, including the kitchen and bathroom tiles, and cleaning all the windows. For this I was paid £1.50 an hour.

On many occasions I arrived for working soaking from the rain, dripping water all over the step. I have never been offered a towel, merely told which room to start on.

I could give numerous instances of the thoughtless employers of domestic help, but suffice it to say that until they pay a decent wage and show some consideration, there will always be a shortage of domestics.

From Mrs Shaikat Akhtar, Union of Muslim Families, Balfour Road, London N5.

It is surprising that such a renowned feminist as Germaine Greer seems to have made a U-turn in her views and understanding of the position — and its advantages — of the woman in Islam (August 15).

I assume that it is because she has actually taken the trouble to speak with one of those ladies she hitherto considered to be wretched, exploited and segregated, and find out the true conditions of a Muslim woman from Mai Yamani's highly educated point of view.

Wherefore art thou, romance?

The most movingly romantic play now running in the West End and guaranteed to make anyone, whatever their gender, cry bucketfuls is *The Normal Heart*, in which both the lovers are men.

Their relationship is full of jokes, mutual understanding and genuine fondness, which made me try to remember the last time someone had written a play about a pair of heterosexuals in which affection played quite a large part. *Romeo and Juliet* sprang to mind.

The lack of civilized and charming relationships between men and women in contemporary drama has made me wonder whether the stage has been a wicked influence on my generation who were impressionable adolescents when *Look Back in Anger* first winged its way across the footlights.

Did the fact that the first play about modern marriage that I ever saw concerned a woman at work on an endless pile of ironing while her husband sprawled in an armchair, stage right, being rude to her, shape my view of wifehood? Quite possibly, since I subsequently spent a lot of time at the front row looking at the simultaneous listening to complaints about my lack of intellect.

The gist of the complaint was that if I was so smart how come I never got on top of the housework? By that time I had seen the collected output of Osborne, Wesker and Nichols so I didn't expect anything different.

It is hard to say who influenced whom. Did we all learn to be meanly provocative towards each other, kick doors to and wage phony wars against the world because that was what we saw on Shaftesbury Avenue? Or did Shaftesbury Avenue depict all these horrors because they had become social realism? We may never know.

As social realism makes me hide my head under the pillow in the hope that it will go away, I have taken to switching off television drama series about deserted wives and tormented bank managers and substituting an old movie. I don't flick the video button to escape to a world in which boy meets/loses/fights cap-



PENNY PERRICK

tures girl so much as to find one where boy loves girl however appalling girl might be.

Take Bette Davis in *All About Eve*. She drinks herself legless, insults the guests at her own party and turns her mouth into the shape of a letterbox every time she exhales clouds of smoke from one of her endless cigarettes. But she still Gets Her Man. This was 1950, after all, a time when men and women seemed to get along with each other, cinematically speaking. And, possibly, judging from the low divorce rate, in real life too.

I can imagine what would be Bette Davis's fate if she carried on in her wickedly witty way in some more contemporary drama. Her lover, instead of offering comfort and solace, would be booking a series of appointments for her at the neighbourhood psycho-analytic centre in an attempt to cure her of all her addictions, including her need to be sassy at all times. Then one or other of them would run off with the psychoanalyst for a life of mutual angst.

I think I decided that I had had it all up to here with modern drama when I was taken to see a play about two old men boring each other half to death on a park bench for almost an entire first act before one of them was knocked senseless by a young thug. This was supposed to be a comedy. When I complained bitterly about the lack of lights, music and action I was told that these days that's showbusiness.

Crusader on Main St

Andrew H. Vachas looks Cagney-tough, Bogart-tough — very tough indeed. A crusading New York attorney and expert on juvenile delinquency and child abuse, he could as easily be Burke, the hard-boiled, street-wise private detective and orator of his first novel, *Flood*.

The book has been called a classic thriller in the mould of Chandler and Hammett, but Vachas is less interested in authorship than in convicting the perpetrators of child sex crimes, protecting their victims, and defeating the teenage criminals that many of the abused youngsters become.

Already a star on the city's legal circuit, Vachas, a wiry 43-year-old, is concentrating his considerable energies on forming a lobby group to force greater action on the issue, hoping for the effect that drink-driving campaigners in America had in reducing the number of deaths on the road.

"If you're angry about something you should do something," he said, the eyepatch he wears for a recurring ailment leading emphasis to his intensity. "I've devoted my life to this cause, and I got in because I wanted vengeance. It's no use drinking beer and complaining."

There is no doubt, according to him, that there is a direct link between child sex abuse and juvenile crime. "Children who have been profoundly abused are likely to become 'your teenage suicides, your dope fiends, runaway kiddie prostitutes. The disease will out in some form or fashion.'"

Recent statistics in America suggest that as many as four in five juvenile delinquents were sexually abused when children. Vachas, the former director of Boston's Andros maximum security institution for violent juvenile offenders, believes that society and government on both sides of the Atlantic are failing to face up to the challenge.



Doing it by the book: Vachas, campaigner turned author

Acclaimed thrillers by a New York lawyer are only the cutting edge of his campaign against child sex crime

people sworn to secrecy. Now all it needs is a Polaroid."

Vachas, who worked as a factory worker, cab driver, gambler, advertising copywriter and photographer before becoming a social worker and lawyer, wants a linked response to the twin-headed ogre of child sex abuse and juvenile crime.

"You have a system set up to deal with delinquents and a so-called child protective system to deal with victims. But as soon as the child merges into the animal you've lost all sympathy. The two systems should be the same system. Delinquents are not born, there's nothing genetic when it comes to crime. So we create our own monsters."

ing heroine Flood he is against the death penalty. America's criminal justice system is too imperfect for that, he says.

The cast of *Flood*, featuring Max the Silent, a deaf and dumb Tibetan martial arts expert; Mama Wong, the Prophet; and a hooker named Michelle, are a composite of the low-life characters Vachas deals with in his law practice.

He wrote the story, a deliberately-shocking amplification of his own campaign, in six weeks. It follows the search for a child rapist and killer known as the Cobra. A sequel called *Streets* about the child-pornography underworld will soon be published in America and the film rights to both books have been sold for "a substantial six-figure sum."

Vachas, who is married but has no children, is capable of filling the wider frame, using it to increase the effectiveness of his campaign. He said: "Britain should learn from our mistakes. Not only right but logic is on my side — and self-interest. Make your investment in intervening in early childhood. It will pay great dividends. It's a fight I can't lose. Even if I get knocked out in the third round."

David Browne
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Flood is published by Collins (£10.95) and Pan (£2.50).

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THE TIMES DIARY

Hatton charge

Are Liverpool's already overburdened ratepayers about to find a last-ditch attempt by Derek Hatton to get back into the Labour Party? Eye brows have been raised by the item soon to be rubber-stamped under special powers granted by the city council to its industrial and public relations committee, which Hatton chairs. It proposes that the council spends about £1,200 sending two officers and two councillors to the Labour Party conference at Blackpool next month - an opportunity, as opposition politicians point out, to seek to overturn Hatton's expulsion from the party for his membership of Militant. Will Hatton be among those making the all-expenses-paid trip? I can only report that the matter will be decided on Wednesday by a meeting of two councillors - Derek Hatton and his deputy.

Smokescreen

The Chemical Industries Association's "Open Door 86" campaign to try to improve the industry's image backfired the other day. The PR brief was to show "what a massive contribution we make to the quality of life". So, to demonstrate its humane qualities, director general Martin Trowbridge was filmed by the Thames surrounded by gamboiling children. Alas, the scene was marred by an unwelcome walk-on in the form of a substantial pall of black smoke which suddenly billowed from ICI's headquarters on the opposite bank. A straight-faced ICI spokesman blamed it on Westminster Hospital's waste-burning stack nearby, although he did admit that builders renovating the ICI HQ could have been responsible.

Home truth

Further news reaches me of the Tory campaign to persuade expatriate Britons to register to vote. One of Norman Tebbit's letters exhorting support from Conservatives in foreign parts has landed on the desk of a reader, P.J. Seager, who works in London W1 and lives in London W4.

Burning issue

The issue of the young Tory magazine *New Agenda* hammering Lord Stockton over the repatriation of Cockscak prisoners promises to become a collector's item. Conservative Central Office tells me that of the 2,000 copies printed, publisher Harry Hibbs has agreed to return 1,600 - destined, presumably, for the incinerator. Meanwhile the Alternative Bookshop in Covent Garden, having exhausted its supply, started to sell photocopied at 20 pence a go. It has now ceased to do so for fear of legal action.

BARRY FANTONI



Duffed up

Even as a straight play, *Macbeth* has long been beset with production difficulties, to the extent that most actors blanch at the very mention of its name, choosing to refer to it simply as "The Scottish play." Hardly surprising, then, that a musical version by the National Youth Theatre has had more than its fair share of problems. Having finally secured financial backing in the form of Sean Connery's gift of £50,000, the cast of *Nightstruck* (it was originally to have been called *Rocketh*) at London's Shaw Theatre discovered that the entire set had been built four feet too small, designer Brian Lee having been given the wrong dimensions for the stage. Perhaps the cramped set helps to explain why the unfortunately named Rod Jinks stumbled in rehearsal and was forced to play the part of Banquo with a stick.

Benchermen

With which dishes would you nourish our leading politicians in the (I hope) unlikely event of their turning up on your doorstep for a meal? The question is prompted by Michael Dawe, who proved a helpful aid in my recent quest for MPs' most appropriate reading matter. There could be only one menu, albeit a repetitive one, for Mr Speaker: Hors d'oeuvre, hors d'oeuvre; Mrs Thatcher, I think would find herself faced with an unconventional repast of bully beef followed by Windsor soup, in the awkward company of Dalyell, sipping hard at his Leak Soup, the Davids, Steel and Owen, could fight over a plate of hubble and squeak, while there are three party puddings on offer: Yorkshire for Roy Hattersley, Cabinet for Sir Geoffrey Howe, and Roly Poly for, of course, Cyril Smith. Ted Heath gets sour grapes, and Cecil Parkinson nothing but hot water. I'm afraid there are not enough nut cutlets to go round. PHS

The Commonwealth Eminent Persons Group described the South African administration as "government by semantics". The interview with President Botha on this page on Saturday fits neatly into this definition. Beneath the glib phrases that seem to indicate a desire for genuine reform and an end to apartheid, the desperate desire to cling to white minority rule continues.

President Botha speaks of the true struggle in South Africa as being an ideological one between those who want freedom and stability and those who favour a "socialist dictatorship by a small power clique". This is not the case. The struggle is between those who seek to uphold, by force where necessary, a system under which 4.5 million whites control 80 per cent of the most productive land (with 24 million blacks denied all political rights and crammed into the remainder) and those who believe this system must change.

It is the National Party government that is the "small power clique". It maintains high living standards for whites, contemplating with equanimity the Third World existence to which it condemns those living in the black townships. Its policy of forced removals, albeit now supposedly "voluntary", has obliged millions to move away from their homes, and their work, while giving them the trappings of "independence" in the so-called "homelands".

The need to alleviate the terrible conditions in which black people must live is often cited, by Mrs Thatcher among others, as an argument against sanctions. But the claim that sanctions would cause the death by starvation of many black children is highly suspect. White children do not starve to death in South Africa, while the black infant mortality rate is higher than that in Zimbabwe. Even if the most stringent sanctions were imposed, South Africa could easily produce enough food to feed its entire population, black and white.

Since 1939 our cultural life has produced a creditable number of artists nurtured in a climate of creative competition. Painters such as Francis Bacon and Howard Hodgkin, sculptors such as Henry Moore and Anthony Caro have achieved international recognition. The status of the novel has been maintained by, among others, Iris Murdoch, Angus Wilson and William Golding, while younger authors and poets such as Peter Ackroyd and James Fenton show that literature is still critically engaged in imaginatively shaping the world. Our musical life has flourished, and we take justifiable pride in the performing arts, particularly the theatre.

But, to stay healthy, the arts must have a collective well being. We cannot judge a culture by the quality of a dozen individual achievements. If we look further into the arts over the last four decades it is clear that they have been afflicted by the creeping paralysis of nostalgia. Even the Beats found their true imaginative identities in the personas of the moustached Edwardian bandmen of Sergeant Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band.

Much of this is the result of the changes forced upon us by the war. 1939 was a watershed, inculcating a nostalgia for the innocence of childhood, for pastoral life, for the world of the country house, for some moment in the not-too-distant past when the community seemed whole. After the war, the myth of this English Arcadia was joined by another, urban myth - the social cohesion and purposiveness of the Blitz.

By the early 1950s the backward glance had become almost a fixed stare. Even those whose politics inclined them to be progressive were hindered by a hankering after a past period of communal solidarity that probably never was. George Orwell seemed to regret the passing of Edwardian England, Richard Hoggart and Raymond Williams the working-class communities of their childhood. And there was the ruling example of F.R. Leavis.

To believe in the past existence of an ideal state, now dissolved - and this applies to Hoggart's Leeds as much as Evelyn Waugh's Brideshead - is to think in terms of conservatism, and to be suspicious of all change. That suspicion has if anything intensified. If I have to choose one example of the ruling mood, it is Philip Larkin's poem, *Going, Going*. There are good reasons for treating this as more than just one utterance among many. At his death, Larkin enjoyed the status of our leading contemporary poet. *Going, Going* also has the status of an "official" poem, for it was originally written as the prologue to a Department of the Environment report of 1972. *How do you want to live?*

Cowboy is a word that has worsened rapidly. When we talk, as it is idiomatic to do, about cowboy builders, plumbers, electricians, drivers, and cowboy policing, we imply rough-and-ready and unofficial performers, who take short cuts and may be part of the black economy, and with whom the supper guest should use a long spoon.

I think this fashionable modern use of cowboy began in the United States in the 1950s, and was originally specifically applied to driving and the uppity young. "One of those drugstore-cowboy-motorcycle types, just past their first juvenile delinquency." A dictionary of American slang of the period defines a cowboy as a reckless driver. The fact that it felt the need to define the word suggests a recent new meaning.

Brutal reality of Botha's talk of reform

by David Steel

The Botha government has taken some measures to soften the effect of apartheid, but they are superficial. "Free-trade areas" open to all races have been established in some cities, mixed race marriages are now permitted, and the pass laws have been abolished.

It would be foolish not to welcome these developments, but what beneficial effects they may have are severely mitigated by other factors. The repeal of the Mixed Marriages Act affects only a tiny minority, and even then couples are forced by the Group Areas Act to live in the area of the "racially inferior" partner. Likewise the hated "pass" is to be replaced by a "common identity document", about which many blacks rightly remain sceptical.

Time alone will tell whether this constitutes a real move towards dismantling apartheid or is yet another change with little actual substance. Meanwhile the pillars of apartheid - the Population Registration Act and Group Areas Act - remain in force. The black majority remains politically dispossessed.

President Botha shows great pride in his reform programme whereby Indians and coloureds (those of mixed race) participate in the tricameral parliament and blacks have a part in the lower tiers of government. The reality is the continued maintenance of white power and the white veto, despite the talk of power-sharing.

The tricameral parliament has been a tolerable reform to the white minority only because the white chamber can impose its will on the other two chambers in the event of deadlock. Likewise the lower tiers of government are designed to shore up the apartheid regime. They are a sham, based on the pseudo-independent homelands and a bogus local government system that stands in tatters.

Botha emphasizes the divided nature of the black community in a "nation of minorities", while conveniently forgetting the divisions between those whites of British, Dutch, Portuguese and other European origins. Perhaps his greatest fear is of a unified black majority, under the moderate leadership of Nelson Mandela and Oliver Tambo.

Botha's unwillingness to release Mandela from prison and speak to him must be the most shortsighted of his policies. There can be little doubt that Mandela possesses the necessary leadership qualities and popular support to unify the black population. Indeed, Chief Butheza, for the last few years at loggerheads with the African National Congress, has none the less expressed his willingness to follow Mandela's leadership.

The South African government says it will not release him because he and the ANC refuse to repudiate violence and are merely a front

for communist revolutionaries. Neither accusation stands up to detailed analysis. Indeed, Botha has never grasped the fact that it is inaction by western countries which is likely to push movements struggling for freedom into the arms of world communism. It was the violence of the apartheid system that drove Mandela and the ANC to armed struggle. When the Eminent Persons Group spoke to him in jail he emphasized that negotiation, not violence, was the route to a solution. He welcomed the Commonwealth initiative and declared his personal acceptance of its negotiating concepts. Although the ANC did not make a similar declaration, one would almost certainly have followed.

Mandela hoped to synchronize efforts by the ANC and the government to withdraw the army and police from the townships and suspend violent action while negotiations took place. This possible compromise was blown apart by the South African raid into Zimbabwe, Zambia and Botswana, an act which typically illustrates the lack of political will to achieve substantive political reform.

The Botha government has consistently turned its back on opportunities for compromise and reform, a reality which the shallow hypocrisy of Saturday's interview cannot conceal. The result is an ever-increasing swell of violence at home and growing isolation abroad. Regardless of sanctions, foreign companies are already voting with their feet. About 50 American companies have pulled out this year alone.

The longer Botha persists with belligerent rhetoric and political obduracy, the more likely will be the bloodshed every responsible person must hope to avoid. Meanwhile the western democracies must press ahead with targeted sanctions which will register our disapproval from a regime based on the fundamentally immoral principle of racially defined minority rule.

Robert Hewison calls for a more critical approach to nostalgia in the arts

Cast aside this past that never was



Larkin's theme is disillusion and disappointment with the modern world - new buildings, new people, new money. All are pollutants. But whereas before he had always felt that the England he loved would at least last long enough for his own purposes. For the first time I feel somehow that it isn't going to last. That before I snuff it, the whole Boiling will be tourist parts. At a first reading, this seems a condemnation of contemporary values with which all can agree. *That before I snuff it, the whole Boiling will be tourist parts.* At a first reading, this seems a condemnation of contemporary values with which all can agree. *The shadows, the meadows, the lawns.* *The guldhalls, the carved choirs.* *There'll be books; it will linger on* *In galleries; but all that remains* *For us will be concrete and tyres.* But what are the values that are being lamented? First of all there is regret for a pastoral vision of England that has inspired English poets for 250 years - for the

period of the Industrial Revolution that has produced the urban society which Larkin deplores, but upon which he actually depended. The regret is understandable, but it is based on a fantasy.

Secondly - the guldhalls, the carved choirs, Larkin's image is of burgher virtue and Christian art, but we know that he was not motivated by religious belief. What is most disturbing about his poem, however, is the combination of nostalgia with resignation. He despises those who profit from that pollution, and those hoping to, but there is no conviction in the values which he opposes them. Somehow, "it isn't going to last."

In the atmosphere of economic uncertainty that has prevailed since the early 1970s, there is unsurprisingly a return to conservatism and conservatism. People look to their culture for reassurance; they do not want art that is difficult, or even formally innovative. There has been a revival of figurative painting, narrative poetry, and re-emphasis on conventional naturalistic fiction. And above all, we have had a return to the past. Here we may feel safe, but the past we recreate in industrial museums and ceremonial pageantry is an illusion. The security it offers is a dream. The imaginary past is deployed to make bearable the unbearable present.

In my rejection of nostalgia and pessimism I am not arguing against a respect for cultural tradition. Unfortunately, the word "tradition" has been almost as thoroughly appropriated by cultural conservatives as the word "heritage". As Seamus Heaney has said, poetry can be "a restoration of the culture to itself... an attempt to define and interpret the present by bringing it into significant relationship with the past. The problem of most contemporary culture is that it seems to place the present in an insignificant relationship with the past."

The distinction I am making is between two cultures: a heritage culture which beautifully preserves the past, but which is nostalgic and ultimately reactionary, and a critical culture, which, again in Heaney's words, "keeps open the imagination's supply lines to the past" but which does not turn away from the present. I am thinking of an open culture which does not depend upon a minority to select the particular meanings and values that they cherish and which encourages the individual, independent - even heretical - voice to put into question the inherited tradition, the determined present, and the unstable future. *The author's Too Much: Art and Society in the Sixties will be published by Methuen on September 4 at £14.95.*

Mix metaphor

Philip Howard: new words for old

and a mad scramble of people getting out of the stalls before being forced to stand still for the National Anthem. In those days, when everybody went to the cinema at least once a week, the western was one of the most popular genres; the first cowboys on film appeared flickering and popping off their pistols as long ago as 1894. *The Great Train Robbery* of 1903 is erroneously described as the first western. Since then there have been thousands, no fewer than 45 with Buffalo Bill as the hero. Today the western is less popular, and its message has become more complex than the old Cowboys versus Indians, white versus brown simplicities. In the real West rather than the silver screen version, the cowboy was usually referred to as a cowhand. He was the king of the range, the horseman who worked cattle, roping, branding, rounding up, trailing, cutting out, and galloping to turn a stampede. If you call him a cowpoke, duck, or grin like you was just kiddin'. A cowpoke was an inferior hand to the proud horseman. All he needed was a poor sense of smell and little skill. He rode with the cattle during rail shipment, poking them with a little stick when they showed signs of lying down, to prevent them from tripping the others and breaking their legs. But before Hollywood glamorized the cowboy, he had a long and tangled pedigree. He started life to denote the boy who looked after the cows. During the American Revolution and War of Independence, cowboy was picked up as a term of abuse for American Tories who fought with the British and were regarded as brutal and barbarous by the American rebels. This has a precedent for the new modern use of cowboy as incompetent and unscrupulous workman. But there is evidence that the Scots were using cowboy as a rude word more than a century before the Americans. There is an example of the derogatory use in a letter dated January 10, 1642, to Archibald Stewart of Ballintoy, colonel of a scratch regiment thrown together to keep the Irish rebels out of Ulster. The writer complains about the conduct of "those Captains of yours whom you may call rascals Cowboys, every day using our selves and our tenants of purpose to pick quarrels. *Out where the handclasp's a little stranger.* *Out where the smile dwells a little longer.* *That's where the West begins.* But it may not end as simply as that.

Even easier than AB

Market research, we are told, has caused fierce arguments in the Conservative Party. Is the new American "psychographic" technique for delineating segments of the electorate to be used in fighting the next general election? Are we to stop talking about ABs, DEs and Cs and hunt out instead the "belongers"? I hope so. It will be much more fun.

Values and life-styles are far more entertaining to describe and read about than the statistics of class and income, and conditions of work. Furthermore, it is not alien but a British approach of long standing, going back... well, at least as far as Nancy Mitford and her U and non-U definitions.

One American imported category we are going to have to do a lot more work on is the "Yuppie", the Young Urban Professional, who does not easily transpose: he/she is zippy, smooth, aspiring, fairly libertarian in social attitudes but hard-nosed at the same time; hard-working yet laid-back. We don't have many of these here. In fact the most obvious Young Urban Professional I see in my part of London is the complete opposite: it is that immortalized by Richard North as the Drabbie: a public sector worker who dresses scruffily, pretends to be poorer than he is, and is perpetually outraged about "the cuts". Drabbies live in north London; they are teachers, social workers and local government officers and are the backbone of local Labour Party organization.

If one wanted to redefine Drabbies as a sub-set of Yuppies one might call them Young Urban Radical Professionals or Yurpics. (The term conveys the somewhat regrettative nature of their discourse.) They are formidable in numbers and staying power - not least because they seem to have an uncaring instinct for buying dilapidated property in districts that are about to "come up". With a romantic attachment to the working class and a horror of gentrification, they are in fact the main agents of it, pioneers of middle-class standards of living in one rundown area after another. What they have done to house prices is nobody's business; but because they have made such huge capital gains on their own properties they can afford to continue living in inner London and running things for the rest of us.

So I think I am with the new style of thinking that regards the old class categories as inadequate guides to voting intention. At a wild guess I would place the Yurpics as 70 per cent Labour, 30 per cent Alliance, the Yuppies as 70 per cent Conservative, 30 per cent Alliance, and the Yurpics as 50 per cent Labour, 40 per cent Alliance and 10 per cent Conservative. In other words, pretty much of a mixture.

But whereas Young & Rubicam will no doubt be charging Conservative Central Office hundreds of thousands of pounds for their analysis, mine - as a special treat this Bank Holiday Monday - comes for nothing. *The author is a member of the SDP national committee.*

This is the age of the mains

Watching the latest British Telecom commercials, in which for some reason 200 creatures ranging from hippopotami to tortoises make appointments in strangled pseudo-upper-class old-boy voices ("Nine-thirteen? Eeoh, yess, all right then, nine-thirteen, m'hyrne.") Click! one can't help wondering all over again what on earth is the point of any public monopoly advertising at all. Can there be one person in the entire country who has decided to get rid of her electric cooker and go over to wonderfuel gas (especially if she lives in the country where there is no gas) because of that frantic woman singing about it? Or who has gone over from instantly-controllable gas to electricity (power-surge wasted but paid for while warming up; dying red heat also wasted even if not paid for when switched off) because of that 201 commercials? They should be called 201 because they palely imitate the ideas of the film 2001, all scudding clouds, lightning flashes, orouching horizons and humming, sub-Light music. What other telephones than those of British Telecom could we use? Or are they trying to get at people who still use pigeons, or perhaps some defiantly anti-technology, secret rural network flashing messages from ridge to ridge by heliograph, or flag signals, or creaking wooden telegraph systems of the kind used to send the news of Trafalgar from Portsmouth to London? (In the Oliver film, at any rate.)

In this bewildering period when nobody is sure what is nationalized and what is privatized but they all advertise (and always have, surely) we all stare at these commercials with no reaction whatever except possibly a thought that some agency with a name like Gobble Grabhold Deane or Ward Morley-Batson or Brother Crowther Bother is making £1,000 a second (out of our bills). Even the fall of the last bastion of impersonal, anonymous public-service dignity would not surprise us. Any day now we may expect over God knows what visual images - a frantic, close-harmony group setting water to use Boil it up to make your tea Use it in your cookery Turn the tap on in the sink Water for your wash or drink! From your mains enjoy the flow Of clear and useful H-two-O. Yeh! As science pushes on with things like forward scatter, and carbon fibre and the other mysteries perhaps there is an increasing gulf between inheritors of the old jobs-for-arms-men government tradition that goes back to Trollope, P.G. or the Max Beerholm cartoon captioned "Statesman of Olden Time, making without wish for emolument a flat-but faithful version of the Georgians in English hexameters" and the scientists, impatient of literacy, let alone literature, hence the poster and van notice saying *Who did you forget to phone today?* under which one loafs to squirt with a spray-can the words *My grammar teacher.* When the gentlemanly old Post Office did make contact with modern media hype it produced real works of art, like the famous documentary *Night Mail* (commentary by Auden, music by Britten). But the Post Office was already effortlessly in the national consciousness. People knew exactly what "pillar-box red" was; indeed I once had a paint-box in which it was "named. The Post Office knew it was both unnecessary and dignified to sell itself and the kind of service which, one took for granted, would deliver a postcard on the same day that it was posted. Now, superseding the deeply unloveable Buzby, and those frightful - penguins - going *hi-yi-yi-eeeh bicy bicy quick quick*, we have these elephants and cypriotes pretending to be company directors. My last weekend post goes at 9.10 am on Saturday morning. And in an ever-changing world they are getting ready to set up British Webcam too. Who knows? One thing is certain. No paint-box is ever going to say British Telecom Yellow. Meanwhile let us think of navy blue and hope to God there won't be a British Navcom.

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MONACO IN THE MIDLANDS

Habitual visitors to great motor sporting occasions may find themselves remarking this morning, as they fumble around Spaghetti Junction through the August Bank Holiday traffic, that the experience does not bear very much resemblance to the mimosabordered descent from the Grande Corniche on the way to the Monaco Grand Prix. Indeed, the Crossroads Motel is unlikely to have turned itself overnight into the Hotel de Paris: nevertheless today, thanks to a combination of visionary persistence and laudable civic ambition, the pragmatic city of Birmingham joins itself to the noisy and sometimes inconvenient but decidedly romantic tradition of racing in the streets.

Motor racing began, at the end of the last century, as a point-to-point sport. On a summer's day in 1894, 22 horseless carriages of various shapes, sizes and degrees of mechanical ingenuity set out to cover the 79 miles from Paris to Rouen; the first to arrive, Count de Dion, in a steam car of his own manufacture, averaged a shade under 12 miles per hour. During the next few years, the Count and his fellow enthusiasts raced from the French capital to Marseilles, Amsterdam, Berlin and Vienna, their solid tyres kicking up the dust and ploughing the mud of unmade roads. Only after the Paris-Madrid race of 1903, in which five competitors - including Marcel Renault, the automobile pioneer - and a number of spectators were killed, did the sport move into a more

controllable environment. The British were hardly to be seen at those early events. Yet today, as the domestic motor industry limps along with a permanent misfire and a slow puncture, motor sport is something at which the nation excels. Factories in such exotic locations as Didcot and Ewell dominate the grand prix world to such an extent that even the great Enzo Ferrari, that proud Italian whose name is practically synonymous with the sport and its enduring motif of Continental glamour, is recruiting British designers to help restore his fortunes. At this year's Indianapolis 500 race, an insular showpiece of American sport, 29 of the 33 competing cars - including all 14 finishers - were conceived and built in the Midlands.

Before today, motor racing has never been permitted on the public roads of mainland Britain. Birmingham is at the heart of what was once Britain's car country, but a number of local residents, not to mention those denied their regular worship by yesterday's practice sessions, greeted the enabling Act of Parliament with something less than rapture. Notwithstanding their reservations, today's event seems essentially in tune with a growing tendency in Britain towards public festivity; perhaps, with fingers crossed, we may suggest that the 21 years of the Notting Hill Carnival have helped us relearn the pleasure to be derived from such gatherings, be they fireworks displays, marathon races or royal weddings.

Of course, no motor sport

occasion is devoid of danger, and the uninitiated may be little consoled by the suggestion that accidents at city-centre circuits such as Monaco, Pau and Detroit are generally less severe in nature and consequence than those at permanent autodromes, where speeds are higher. (It does seem possible, looking at the plans, that in their desire to create a spectacle the designers of the Birmingham circuit have placed too great an emphasis on sheer speed.) Nor will it help them much to know that such accidents as do occur will be dealt with by voluntary marshals whose skill and discipline, honed every weekend at the purpose-built venues, are admired around the world.

Therein, however, lies an irony. Should today's meeting achieve outstanding success, the call will be heard for Birmingham to host future editions of the British Grand Prix, the country's leading annual motor sport event. Such a step ought not to be taken without considering the implications for the two permanent circuits, Brands Hatch and Silverstone, which currently share the race, each using the considerable biennial income to subsidize regular meetings for the amateurs and aspiring professionals who form the sport's healthy foundation. That caveat aside, Birmingham deserves good wishes. For this day at least, as the high-strung engines scream and the sponsors' flags flutter in the slipstream, the Bull Ring will have an aura to rival Casino Square.

BETTER FENCES, BETTER NEIGHBOURS

The recent renewal of consular relations between Great Britain and Guatemala, with the prospect of cool diplomatic relations to come, is a reminder that the dispute over Belize is still with us. But it also holds out hope that this quarrel may, after a relatively uneventful two centuries or so, be drawing to an end.

The history of the dispute is almost as long as that of the argument over the Falkland Islands, and a deal more obscure to the British public. It originated in a disagreement between Great Britain and Spain over the territory of what was then British Honduras. Spain's part was subsequently taken over by Guatemala and Mexico jointly, then left to Guatemala to pursue alone.

Last December the Christian Democrat Marco Vinicio Cerezo was elected President of Guatemala. He is the first civilian to lead Guatemala since a brief interlude in 1966, and he heads what is effectively the first popularly elected government since 1954. He was elected, moreover, under a constitution that has abandoned the extravagant claims to the territory of Belize that Guatemala has asserted for the last 50 years.

Talks between British, Guatemalan and Belize diplomats had resumed even before Dr Cerezo's election, with agreement to differ on the question of who were observers and who were participants.

(Guatemala takes the view that Britain's responsibilities were not ended by Belize's independence.) Last held in February 1985, these talks will doubtless be renewed in the not-too-distant future.

Guatemala has found virtually no support for her territorial claim among her immediate neighbours or in the rest of Latin America, a reflection both of its juridical weakness and of the diplomatic isolation that Guatemala's brand of military government has brought about in the last 30 years. But a new mood has begun to prevail there, and in his Central American policy Dr Cerezo has already shown a desire to end his country's isolation and show a different face to the world. These changes could not have occurred without a substantial degree of acquiescence on the part of the country's military.

How successful the new President will be in bringing stable democratic rule and ending violent repression in Guatemala remains a matter of speculation. As elsewhere in Central America, rapid social and economic change in the last two decades has mobilized forces that cannot be controlled in the old ways and which are unlikely to be contained by a new authoritarianism. The necessary transitions are everywhere hard to manage. Dr Cerezo has made a realistic start; economic circumstances are dire but the coffee price has risen.

FOURTH LEADER

Last week, a widowed lady 109 years old flew in an aeroplane for the first time. She had clearly decided that having waited so long to break her duck, she ought to do it in style, so she embarked, with the compliments of British Airways on Concorde, and was shortly afterwards to be seen sipping champagne at getting on for a thousand miles an hour. Asked about the trip, she said that it had been planned some time in advance, and that her only worry had been that she "might pop off before it arrived".

We are delighted that she did not. But we must reveal that the Concorde experience was not the first time this veteran gadabout had displayed a belated passion for rapid movement. At the age of 108 she had travelled, again with the compliments of the management, on one of British Rail's fastest trains, clocking up 125 mph. (At that speed she may well have had no time to notice the dirt.)

Far be it from us to discourage enterprise and daring; the swift old lady has doubtless put heart into many elderly

people who had begun to think that nothing interesting would ever again happen to them. Only we do feel bound to ask: where is it going to end?

First, this alarming centenarian embarks in a form of transport that was still in its infancy when she was born: next, she leaps to a mode that was not invented until she was in her thirties; it does not need much imagination to think of a third form of mechanized progress, the earliest experiments on which were being made at just about the time she began her long and - at last - exciting life. Will she give us an assurance that she is not about to leap into a racing-car and hasten about at the maximum velocity?

Mind: do we not suggest that if she is going to get behind the wheel, goggled and crash-helmeted, she will be in the least likely to drive recklessly, or even without due care and attention. But she could hardly deny that she does have a taste for speed, and we confess that something in us feels, however illogically or even unfairly, that for a lady of 109 to be constantly whizzing about is

not - well, to be blunt, not quite scenic.

Hamlet had a decided view of the subject, and expressed it forcibly when his mother merely announced that she was going up in a balloon: "At your age, the heyday in the blood is tame, it waits upon the judgement." The truth is, the imitative effect of our heroine's jaunts could well lead to the airways, the rails and the roads becoming jammed with crowds of Senior Citizens hurtling about in a manner that could do their blood pressure no good. (And what about the sea-lanes? She has said nothing, so far, about motor-boats.)

A compromise suggests itself. Let us club together and buy her one of those amusement-arcade machines that simulate a hair-raising drive at very high speed; it could easily be adapted to change, at the touch of a button, from car to plane, and from plane to BR express. But while this is being arranged, let us hope that she does not decide to visit a circus, lest she should see a spangled lady being shot out of a cannon, and get ideas out

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Easing the way in and out of jobs

From Mr Patrick Carroll
Sir, In an otherwise thoughtful article on what should be done to check the ever-spreading blight of unemployment in this country Graham Searjeant (August 18) makes a curious omission. He does not suggest retiring at 60 men who are presently having to wait until 65 to collect their pension.

There is no reason why many of the 1,450,000 men in the age group 60-64 in the United Kingdom should not welcome retirement if their reasonable expectations of a pension are fulfilled. This would clear the way for making substantial inroads into the "2.5 million out of work, who might be in work" mentioned by Graham Searjeant.

The continuation of different retirement rates for men and women in the State pension scheme is itself an anomaly that is overdue for rectification. The wish now reflected in legislation for employment is for equal opportunities and equal rewards.

The basic State pension in the United Kingdom is comparatively low by international standards, having been increased in July by 40p for a single person to £38.70 and by 65p to £63.95 for a married couple. So the net cost on this score would be low after taking into account what could be saved on unemployment benefits.

The action by the French Government to lower the pension age for everyone to 60 from 65, taken around 1981, has met with a general acceptance across the French political spectrum and has been successful in helping to contain unemployment among young people to a substantially lower level than we have experienced in the United Kingdom.

Private pension schemes in the United Kingdom are known to show in many cases substantial surpluses over valuation of liabilities, i.e. an excess of assets over past service reserves. A suitable use of such surpluses is to increase benefits by way of earlier retirement of members.

Some leading British industrialists, who are aware of the cost of earlier retirement falling on their company pension schemes, are also aware of the "incalculable" cost of unemployment among young people and are advocating measures of this kind.

Of course the cost in terms of increased pension benefits at a time when the population is ageing merits serious study. The necessary actuarial and statistical research could be done with a modicum of financial support.

Yours faithfully,
P. S. CARROLL, Director,
Centre for Actuarial Statistics,
35 Canonbury Road, N1,
August 18.

Sister dioceses in UK and S Africa

From Mr J. B. Chadwick
Sir, In his Comment today (August 18) Graham Searjeant could perhaps have added the words "wealth for the nation" at the end of his statement that "the burden of the Thatcher revolution is to remind us that growth is people producing more".

Surely it's the system, or if you wish the volume of statutory legislation, which largely causes people not to bother about producing national wealth.

A recent example makes the point. A Chinese lady wished to convert a long-standing fish and chip shop into a Chinese hot food take-away. For a short period before the change, and in order that the premises were not left vacant, they were used as an antiques shop, for which no planning application was necessary.

However, in order to put the original plan into effect, the Court of Appeal was ultimately to be involved in contortions of fantastic proportions in interpreting the law.

If only the junior in the planning office had turned a blind eye or used common sense (or been allowed to), consider the saving in time, cost (taxpayers' expense) of a multitude of people, planning department staff, councillors, solicitors, barristers, Civil Servants, counsel, inspectors, ministers, judges etc. as the final battle was between the borough council and the Secretary of State.

To revert to the beginning, "more growth is people producing more" - more what?

Yours faithfully,
J. B. CHADWICK,
Beauchief, Wycombe Road,
Holmer Green, Buckinghamshire.

Pension bonanza

From Mr John G. M. Stamp
Sir, When I retired in 1972 I visited the labour exchange in order to arrange for my old age pension to be remitted. Apparently, I was also due a small earnings-related pension of £1.05 a week.

It was then that the manager emerged from his office, shook me warmly by the hand and congratulated me as the first pensioner in his town to "break the £ barrier", as he put it.

That pension eventually grew to £2.10 a week - that is until the payment which I have just received from a kindly DHSS who informed me that my aforementioned pension had been increased by 1.1 per cent which has been rounded up to 3p to £2.13 a week.

On what shall I spend the extra pennies?

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
JOHN G. M. STAMP,
6 Wingate Way,
Trumpington, Cambridge.

Power from the sun

From Professor Robert Hill
Sir, In his letter of August 14, Professor Bryce-Smith advocates the use of solar cells for large-scale electricity generation in the UK; but it is an unfortunate fact that electricity generated on summer days has little value when our peak demand is in winter. Until electricity storage costs and efficiencies improve dramatically, the Central Electricity Generating Board would be unwise to consider solar electricity generation.

The solar cell industry in the UK is, however, growing rapidly at present and includes an amorphous silicon production plant set up by Chronar Ltd in Bridgend with the assistance of the Department of Trade and Industry and the Welsh Office.

Solar cells have a vital role to play in promoting social and economic development in the Third World, through water pumping, lighting, communication and vaccine refrigeration and are attractive for power generation in southern EEC countries where megawatt-sized projects are now under consideration.

The solar technologies appropriate to large-scale deployment in the UK include passive solar heating, which could provide over 25 per cent of our space heating, bio-conversion of wastes and wind generation of electricity, which even on the CEGB's cautious estimate could supply 20 per cent of our needs.

These technologies, plus a major investment in energy efficiency, could make a significant contribution to a secure energy future for the UK, despite their misrepresentation in the recent emotive and tendentious speech by the Secretary of State for Energy.

Yours sincerely,
ROBERT HILL (Chairman,
UK Section, International Solar Energy Society),
Newcastle Photovoltaics Applications Centre,
Newcastle upon Tyne, Polytechnic, Ellison Place,
Newcastle upon Tyne,
August 18.

Palladian harmony

From the Chairman of the Bath Preservation Trust
Sir, Mr Henderson's comments on glazing bars (August 15) strike an answering chord here at the Bath Preservation Trust. We have been campaigning for the restoration of the correct glazing bars in the Palladian buildings of Bath for some time.

We have a fund for restorations of this sort, to which many lovers of Bath have contributed, and this enables us to give grants of up to 50 per cent to owners of such buildings who wish to put back the original windows; we cannot, however, oblige them to do this.

The glazing bars are an integral part of the overall harmony of the original designs and we very much wish that owners of homes in the Royal Crescent would follow the example of the Royal Crescent Hotel and those few others who have restored them. The improvement would be immense.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL BRIGGS, Chairman,
Bath Preservation Trust,
Countess of Huntingdon's Chapel,
The Vineyards,
Bath, Avon,
August 17.

Back to school

From Mrs Liz Williams
Sir, I agree with Stuart Sexton's view (feature, August 13) that education policy will be a major factor up to and beyond the next election, and that "the Government is not perceived as having done a good job".

What does he think has woken the sleeping army of parents to the current stage of concern and dissatisfaction? It was not concern with the way the schools were being run; it was the stark reality of our children being sent home, day in, month out, and sometimes for weeks at a time, as a result of the teachers' pay dispute, which the Government refused to take seriously.

The dispute had parents coming to meetings in their hundreds, with the vast majority supporting

ON THIS DAY

AUGUST 25 1927

What the Dreyfus affair was to France, so was the Sacco-Vanzetti case to America. The two anarchist Italians were found guilty of murder in 1921; they were executed on August 23, 1927. The political background aroused great controversy, which has never died down. In 1977 the then Governor of Massachusetts removed "any stigma and disgrace from the names of Sacco and Vanzetti".

SACCO-VANZETTI RIOTS

(From Our Own Correspondent.)
PARIS, Aug. 24

The material damage which was done during the Sacco-Vanzetti riots (reported in *The Times* yesterday) in Paris last night is considerable.

After being driven from the main boulevards by the police, some of the rioters reassembled in Montmartre, where they attacked cabinet lessons to be requested by American visitors. Others, who had failed to reach the United States Embassy, gathered at the Etoile.

In the meantime, a body of about 500 tried to return via the Boulevard Sebastopol to the Porte St. Martin. There they attacked shops (particularly those with English names and American shoe shops). Seventeen shops in the street were wrecked and the windows looted. All the newspaper kiosks were wrecked, and the gratings which protect the trees were broken up and used as missiles. In the Boulevard de Clichy also a good many shops were attacked and the windows of the Miskado Cafe were broken. While the crowd was passing in the Champs Elysees a revolver shot was fired from the terrace of the Cafe Florentin. The mob thereupon stoned the cafe and broke its windows and those of the Hotel Chambord next door...

(From Our Own Correspondent.)
BERLIN, Aug. 24

One man was killed and a number of persons were injured at Leipzig last night, after a Communist demonstration of protest against the execution of Sacco and Vanzetti.

When one of the dispersing processionists reached the Messelstrasse the police on duty tried to make way for a tramcar. The mob turned on them. One was knocked down and beaten and two received knife wounds. The crowd then attacked a police station amid cries of "Ravage for Sacco and Vanzetti!" "Knock the dogs down!" The police defending the station were assailed with paving stones and pieces of iron. Hard pressed, they fired a few shots from their revolvers and two persons were hit. One, a youth of 19, died immediately after admission to hospital. Communists took the body away in a motor-car and paraded it through the streets and past the United States Consulate, shouting, "The first victim of the Sacco-Vanzetti scandal!"

(From Our Own Correspondent.)
SYDNEY, Aug. 24

More than 1,000 men were dismissed at the City railway works today owing to their unauthorized absence yesterday on the occasion of a Sacco-Vanzetti protest march, and have been informed that they can apply for re-employment through the Labour Bureau. The men are now seeking Ministerial aid to secure their reinstatement...

(From Our Own Correspondent.)
MELBOURNE, Aug. 24

Although no public demonstration of protest against the execution of Sacco and Vanzetti was made by members of the Melbourne trade unions, the Australasian Council of Trade Unions has resolved to launch a boycott of American goods because of what it alleges to be the injustice of the sentence...

(From Our Correspondent.)
GENEVA, Aug. 24

Order may now be considered as completely restored in Geneva, thanks to the strong measures taken by the police who, in dealing with the rioters, were assisted by about 600 *gardes civiques* - citizens belonging to the anti-Bolshevik organization...

(From Our Correspondent.)
BRUSSELS, Aug. 24

A meeting of protest, organized by Communists, against the execution of Sacco and Vanzetti was held in Brussels tonight. About 1,500 persons were present...

Looking askance

From the Chairman of the British Rail Environment Panel
Sir, I should like to thank Dr Lister Wilson (August 19) for the suggestion of chevron-angled name boards at the ends of station platforms to inform passengers travelling through at speed. It is an excellent idea and we shall install some experimentally at selected InterCity stations to see how well they work. We are considering Grantham as the first candidate.

Yours faithfully,
SIMON JENKINS, Chairman,
British Rail Environment Panel,
British Railways Board,
Rail House, Euston Square, NW1,
August 21.

On the fast lane

From Mr John Biggs
Sir, You report (August 20) that an athlete has won the British Rail sprinter trophy. You omit to mention how long the platform was.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN BIGGS,
119 Longton Avenue,
Sydenham, SE26,
August 20.

THE ARTS

Television
Burning
desires

"What can a young lassie do wif an auld man?" wrote Robert Burns. Unfortunately the great Scots bard did not live long enough to give us a demonstration. Judging, however, from Saturday's frolicsome *The Ploughman Poet* (Channel 4) he had already done more than enough with wee lassies in his near 40 years.

This witty film biography was part of the *Stamp of Greatness* series, which tells the stories behind Scottish faces on postage stamps. Burns did not make it philately until 1966 — and that was in the Soviet Union — but there was nothing he did not know about stamping his image nearer home. He not only seems to have bedded almost every lassie he met but to have given each a wee hair as well. The author of "Should auld acquaintance be forgot" certainly knew how to make himself remembered. Even as he was being laid to rest another spitting likeness of himself was being thrust into the world.

Bill Wyman did not reveal anything either about what a young lassie might do with an auld man in *Whistle Test's* "special" on *The Rolling Stones* (BBC2, Saturday), a cobbled-together collection of clips in which the great rock wrinklies ribbed their earnest interviewer, David Hepworth. However, Wyman did admit that, when he was a responsible young family man with drainpipe trousers and a job, he thought the shabbily long-haired Mick Jagger and Keith Richards were beasts — only he was not quite sure what beasts were. Apparently Jagger and Richards were so poor and cold one winter they spent it in bed. They were always born survivors. And there they still were, all those years later, receiving their "lifetime achievement" Grammy award having survived all that sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll could throw at them — even the tax-man.

Poor Robbie Burns could not beat the tax-men so he joined them. Killing to work gave him some much-needed cold showers. Alas, they also killed him. Sometimes you get more than enough of what you need.

Andrew Hislop

The trouble with planning the Proms, as Robert Ponsoy might confirm the current season is his thirteenth and last, is that they aspire to be all things to all persons. More new music, more old, more British, more foreign, more popular, more adventurous, more big names, more new faces: each demand has its vociferous lobby arguing that, with 60 concerts available, the world's finest musicians queuing up to play and the BBC's unlimited resources at hand, nothing could be easier than accommodating their particular hobby-horse, could it?

With this season two-thirds over, the cunning of Ponsoy's juggling is obvious. There is something for nearly everyone, and for some — those who favour Bruckner symphonies, intense 20th-century operas or the BBC Symphony Orchestra striving to employ every freelance horn and percussion player in London to order to mount bloated Romantic epics — a good deal more than that.

The reward has been good audiences, in so far as the naked eye can judge in the Albert Hall. Some critics may have sighed at the number of concerts following the venerable "overture-concerto-symphony" format, but when such events — played by respectable but by no means world-class ensembles — are drawing crowds of 5,000 it is hard to disagree that the public



This season's Proms have run two-thirds of their course: Richard Morrison asks whether they are on quite the right track

A home for every hobby-horse?

Vernon Handley, grossly underrated, giving an electrifying *Belshazzar's Feast*

Goy de Mey, memorably foremost in the title-role of *Orfeo* the first weekend



should, sometimes, be given what it appears to want. The one really poor house so far, for Dallapiccola's marvellous but unknown *Il prigioniero*, could probably have been doubled had the opera been coupled with a work less certain to administer the kiss of death at the box-office than Berg's Chamber Concerto.

But big crowds do not necessarily guarantee a sense of excitement, and it is this quality that has been in short supply in this "well-balanced" season. Certainly there have been the big events: a splendid Mahler Eighth to launch

the ship (but has this celebrity not launched the same ship too often before?); an electrifying *Belshazzar's Feast* under the country's most underrated conductor, Vernon Handley. The grand gesture of the first weekend — a bold scheduling of arcane Renaissance court music and Monteverdi's *Orfeo* in an authentic production which many predicted would sink in the Albert Hall's acres — also paid off handsomely. *Orfeo*, in particular, introduced several rising stars of the early-music field (the outstanding tenor Guy de Mey foremost, in the title-role). In a season which

otherwise leans heavily for its authentic offerings on the same old "big four" (Pinnock, Norrington, Gardiner, Parrott) new faces were welcome.

But no amount of clever programming will excite an audience if the players do not seem excited themselves. Several times in this current season one has felt that those on the platform were not committing body and soul as wholeheartedly as those hundreds of youngsters who queue for, and stand through, these concerts. If only all the professional orchestras displayed the zest of the National

Youth Orchestra in Messiaen's *Turangallia-symphonic*, or the unbridled lust for the limelight so obvious in the playing of the Chamber Orchestra of Europe.

In this respect the lead offered by the BBC's own orchestras has been variable. It was especially disappointing that the BBC Philharmonic, which has done such valuable studio work in difficult repertoires, failed to shine in front of a huge live audience, although Bernhard Klee's bland conducting must be held partly responsible. At least the BBC Welsh was admirably fired up under Mariss Yansons.

Similarly, some soloists have revealed more than others in the Proms' peculiar pressures. Comparative youngsters like the Swedish trumpeter Håkan Hardenberger and the violinist Anne-Sophie Mutter managed to put rarely-heard or unknown concertos over admirably; they will surely be invited back as often as the BBC can afford them. More seasoned soloists sometimes failed to say anything new about either themselves or the evergreens at their fingertips.

When that happens one again questions the wisdom of the Proms in including war-horses which are aired weekly on the South Bank. Surely in these days of wall-to-wall Radio 3, good record libraries and all sorts of student ticket discounts, the old concept of the Proms "introducing a new audience to the classics" is redundant.

Their prime task now must be the broadening of audiences for the rare and the new. Henze's masterly Seventh Symphony, given its UK premiere by a well-prepared CBSO under Rattle; the resuscitation of Zemlinsky's orchestral songs; David Atherton's impassioned championing of Dallapiccola; a blaze of Lisztian splendour through the Albert Hall organ's 32-feet: these are the sounds that have impressed themselves on this listener's memory.

Saturday's Promenade Concert
Longing for life

LMP/Glover
Albert Hall/Radio 3

It was one of those Proms in which the programme-planning was both pragmatically and aesthetically satisfying, and in which orchestral ensemble playing vindicated its careful casting and training. It was one of those concerts, in short, which made you feel jolly guilty for expecting more. But, if Stravinsky's *Dumbarton Oaks* was a healthy counterweight to Nicholas Maw's Sonata for strings and two horns, then one wanted each one to weigh just a little more. And Mozart's K456 Piano Concerto and his "Jupiter" Symphony should sign off their respective halves of the evening, then one longed for a signature of livelier, more distinctive character.

Maw's mid-Sixties Sonata is Strauss with a twist of lemon: swaths of lusciously divided melodic string writing, sharpened by animated counterpoint and two horns who keep its required brief of contrast and reconciliation on its toes. It is a work which never dares to wind up quite enough before it is time to wind down, and neither Jane Glover, nor her fine soloists, Christopher Newport and Peter Francome, could quite disguise the fact.

In the piano concerto, frisky staccato rhythms and light-weight bass provided a short cut to the elusive spirit of the Allegro vivace. As a result, Tamás Vásáry needed to over-compensate by anchoring every cadence in hard-pressed trills and forging entries rather more eager than the orchestra's.

This is not to say he did not make the piano speak just as pleasingly as Glover's players. In the symphony the car was constantly drawn to the skill of her hand-picked team of wind soloists; but they had too little to say. A neatly-phrased perkiness is simply not enough for the start of this work, and both its development and the finale's heady fugue showed little excitement at passing the musical parcel and uncovering its harmonic surprises.

Hilary Finch

Growing Up in the Gorbals, the sensitive autobiography of the psychologist and economist Ralph Glasser, has already been compared in quality to a latter-day *Cider with Rosie*.
interview by Andrew Rissik

The struggle to develop

Ralph Glasser's autobiography, *Growing Up in the Gorbals*, is a remarkable piece of work for genuinely unusual reasons. Vividly written, with a rare blend of sympathy and intelligence, it describes Glasser's boyhood and youth in the slums of Glasgow during the Twenties and Thirties, how he left school at 14 to become a garment-presser in a factory, and how, almost by accident, he entered an essay competition and won a scholarship to Oxford. The book ends as he appears to turn his back upon the community which bred him, troubled by the prospect but resolved, nevertheless, to face the adventure that lies ahead.

In the intervening years Glasser's career has been rewarding and successful, but he could not possibly be described as widely known, except within his own specialist field. The jacket blurb terms him as "a psychologist and economist", and he has spent most of the last 20 years wrestling with development problems in the Third World, advising governments, speaking at conferences and conducting a fierce battle against the continual erosion of traditional communities which are deemed to have outlived their usefulness. So he has no ready-made public reputation, or easily accessible area of expertise, from which to sell a book like *Growing Up in the Gorbals*. Yet his publishers, Chatto & Windus, are sufficiently convinced of its quality and market value to have commissioned a second volume before the first was in print. The head of Chatto, Carmen Callil, says: "I think it has the same quality as *Cider with Rosie*, although it's a very different sort of book. I really felt I was striding up and down those Glasgow hills."

Glasser admits that when he began to write the book, on spec, and naggingly unsure of whether it would find a readership, he had only a vague sense of destiny to guide him. "From as far afield as Bangladesh, I was coming steadily closer and closer to home, to Italy, then north to Iceland and finally to the Highlands. It was as if, during all those years away, I was deliberately finding reasons for not getting all that close to myself. The theme of much of my work in the Third World had been the decay of community and the loss of identity. It was obvious that this had been

working within me, at some very basic and personal level." Glasser describes himself as an oddball. As a boy he knew he did not fit easily into the world, and, designed by temperament to ask questions, he seems to have discovered a secretive emotional security in his sense of apartness and isolation. To childhood it made him open-minded and inquisitive, and he was bookish and private, leaving school reluctantly out of sheer economic necessity. As an adolescent, it made him quietly sceptical of the abid socialist creeds that were rife on Clydeside to those days, and which drove many of his contemporaries to fight in the Spanish Civil War.

His parents were Lithuanian Jews, refugees from the intolerable oppression of the East European ghettos, speaking Yiddish and looking for stability and peace in Glasgow. His father was a rabbi's son, a gambler and spend-thrift, too impecunious ever to secure the meagre prosperity for which the family longed. His mother was devoted and loyal, in the manner of the times, but she died when Glasser was small, riddled with cancer and wasted by exhaustion. Years later, after he had left school for the factory, Glasser wrote his scholarly essay as a kind of bet with the Fates. Its title was "Has Science Increased Human Happiness?" and he answered "No", as he has continued to do throughout his life.

"I wish I still had it. I lost it," he says, with a rueful smile. "But I grasped somehow that, to me, science hadn't any contribution to make. What struck me was the essential fact of the environment in which I was living. People were struggling with their circumstances, not just their conditions. My father was an obsessive gambler and I must have understood that it was a flight from reality. I knew that what I saw of science didn't change the relationships between people." On the eve of his departure for Oxford, a friend called Alec, who died later on the Normandy beaches, warned Glasser of the brusque anonymity of the outside world, and stressed the strengths of the tight little community he was leaving. "He was dead right. I'd sum up now what Alec was trying to say as

EDINBURGH FESTIVAL

Theatre: Irving Wardle

Blood Wedding
Lyceum

With the impending end of the 50-year copyright, which until now has impeded his play in a dreadful official translation, the English stage is due for a Lorca boom; and Edinburgh has usefully celebrated his liberation in last week's two Spanish-language productions — the 15-year-old Espert-Garcia version of *Yerma*, followed by this Madrid transfer of his first "rural tragedy", *Blood Wedding*. Intending British explorers in this uncharted territory could take these two shows as its polar extremes: total baroque extravagance in the case of Garcia, and the utmost austerity in José Luis Gomez's *Blood Wedding*.

The story of an old feud, revived when the bride of an injured family elopes with the son of her bridegroom's family enemies, the play famously displays Lorca's powers of poetic integration. The plot derives from an actual case, and the play duly incorporates its naturalistic origins: at the same time it is loaded with a sense of the Andalusian past, the sense of fatality, the ancient blood code; and as the tragedy advances it takes leave

of the ordinary ceremonies of village life for a magic forest where human characters are joined by the figures of Death and the Moon.

In Gomez's production magic is achieved exclusively through lighting and music. Manfred Bittrich's set offers no more than an unchanging picture of the utmost simplicity showing two cut-out doorways and a prospect of distant hills. When the time comes, his lighting is fully capable of changing this environment into a zone of unearthly shadows where the Moon — in the likeness of an androgynous nude — can embark on a slow march to the kill to gradually strengthening light. But, until these final scenes, the production trusts Lorca to achieve his own integration of the material.

The most important directorial decision is to play out the private drama in public. Scenes are presented in the foreground under the observation of the villagers, celebrating or mourning events that reflect all their lives. When the action does involve them, as in the wedding party, the exhilaration and dread of the principals runs through them like an electric current. There is very little formal dancing in the show; yet the entire company seem engaged in a dramatic dance.

With the main characters, the choreographic pattern of advance and retreat takes on an intensely sexual form. The forbidden lover (Hello Pedregal) visits the bride and becomes irresistibly magnetized by her empty shoes lying on the floor. At the wedding feast he comes and goes like a fatal spectre forever drawn back to her. Even his wife's lullabies are accompanied by the sound of his clandestine hoofbeats. And, in his climactic erotic scenes

with Gloria Muñoz, the greatest passion is expressed through combat and separation. "Wherever you go, I go", he says, hurling her away from him across the stage.

As with sex, so with revenge in the transformation of Gemma Cuervo from a mother terrified of further killing into the instigator of the final duel. I cannot say that, as with *Yerma*, this production dissolves the Spanish cultural barriers; there are no performers here of Espert's stature. But its fusion of naturalism, dream and spellbinding Spanish song is an experience I hope English companies will learn to match.

Kora
Traverse

For all its down-to-earth comic manner, Tom McGrath's play is as pessimistic as the lethargic district housing committee into action, giving the bureaucrats a picture of life in the "Scar" with its roving bands of muggers and packs of wild dogs, metal-shuttered shops and cramped, decaying homes, and drawing up precise proposals for environmental change. Meanwhile, you see these stoical underdogs developing into articulate citizens, acquiring information and the nerve to stand up in public.

Then the housing committee responds. First by proposing to install mail-boxes and intercoms (both sure to be instantly vandalized); and then by declaring that the group have lost their place in the repairs queue by taking matters into their own hands. They would have been better off if they had done nothing. Cutting across this hopeless fable, however, is the story of Kora, a single parent whose main joy in life is to keep on enlarging the family which is already causing her house to burst at the seams. As the first recruit to the tenants' group, Kora seems to be a self-improver along the lines of Gorky's *The Mother*. But, as it turns out, she is strictly a biological earth mother, eyeing every man who enters her living room as a possible supplier of her next child. As the men include a local policeman (in an underpoliced area) and the chairman of the district council you can see that Kora's maternal instincts could supply a political trump-card outmatching any number of action-group meetings.

Perhaps because the play is still anchored in its documentary origins and Mr McGrath has too much respect for the characters to take farcical liberties with them, this potentially hilarious development remains unexplored; and there is a certain dislocation between Kora's story and the surrounding events. It remains a beautifully written piece, with a sour wit and hard-headed observation that rescues it from any taint of wretchedness or facile indignation; a fine company of four led by Michelle Butt as the irresistibly bovine heroine, and a production by Jenny Killick that fruitfully leaves you to imagine the children, dogs and alcoholic neighbours.

Opera: Paul Griffiths

of Leningrad have little to commend them. What has yet to be explained is why this company should have been invited to an international festival, and why a totally empty opera should have been part of the package. But I shall remember one glorious image of the idiocy of the enterprise: that of John Knox and his Presbyterians repeatedly crossing themselves, but carefully in the manner of the Western church. It was almost sufficient to make one wish the real Knox resurrected to lash at them.

Maria Stuart
King's Theatre

Sergi Slonimsky's opera rather puts one in the position of Dante after his exposure to the beatific vision: one knows there was an experience, but the terms for describing that experience do not exist. Criticism is, quite simply, powerless to deal with the utterly valueless. I have ransacked my memory, which includes some pretty duff nights, and can find nothing to compare

Theatre in England

Anyone Can Whistle
Everyman,
Cheltenham

Anyone Can Whistle is early Stephen Sondheim, lyrical, whimsical and precious. Written to a book by Arthur Laurents, the show was first staged on Broadway in 1964, when it lasted nine performances before vanishing into theatrical obscurity and musical legend. And, in its British premiere, this cute, mild-mannered Sixties fantasy about madness, nonconformity and idealism in small-town America still seems dramatically half-baked. But, despite the loose and inconsequential plot, the show has its own surreal integrity and an airy enchantment.

The achievement, of course, is Sondheim's. He knows that this daff moral fable about corrupt city officials, a lucrative fake miracle, a pack of amiable weirdos who are classed as insane, and a dreamy-eyed nurse called Fay Apple, who turns out to have a

heart like a precision-built Swiss watch, is simply a vehicle for his filigree-rich melodic invention. The musical is a kaleidoscopic sequence of revue sketches on the theme of the lunatics taking over the asylum, and it would be foolish to be too bad-tempered about the intractability of the narrative. Sondheim is using these dramatic bits and pieces to get people into positions where they can dance and sing. As characters, they are not rounded, and they have nothing interesting to say, but they work splendidly as a medium for the yearnings of his syncretized, urban-romantic soul.

Sondheim is an old-fashioned crooner who composes in a jazzy, modernist idiom, and it is those piercing, bitter-sweet harmonies for which he will be remembered. John Doyle's production is sensibly picturesque, with the company in glowing, flower-power costumes. Pip Hinton is a glorious Lady Mayor, ebulliently improvising the flourishes of grand opera, while Marilyn Cutts makes Fay Apple mottlingly plausible.

Andrew Rissik

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